9784757736900
ISBN978-4-7577-3690-0
C0979 ¥740E
定価 本体740円+税
エンターブレイン
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SOIL［ソイル］6 カネコアツシ

SOIL ソイル

⑥ CONTENTS

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Main Characters

Onoda ..... Kamikawa Station police officer.

Yokoi ..... Sergeant as above. Onoda's boss.

Tamura ..... Detective as above.

Katakuri ..... Soil New Town police officer.

Ichinose ..... Katakuri's co-worker. **Disappeared.**

Masaki Suzushiro ..... Family father living in Soil New Town. **Disappeared.**

Noriko Suzushiro ..... His wife. **Disappeared.**

Mizuki Suzushiro ..... Their daughter. Soil Middle School 8th grader. **Disappeared.**

Kento Miyahara ..... A teenager raised in a fatherless family. Soil Middle School 8th grader. Currently hiding in the Town Council President's house.

Misa Kataoka ..... A young girl who was raped by a gang of thugs. Soil Middle School 8th grader. Joined Kento.

"Chartreuse" ..... One of the children hiding in the Town Council President's house.

Tomiyama ..... Soil Middle School 8th grader.

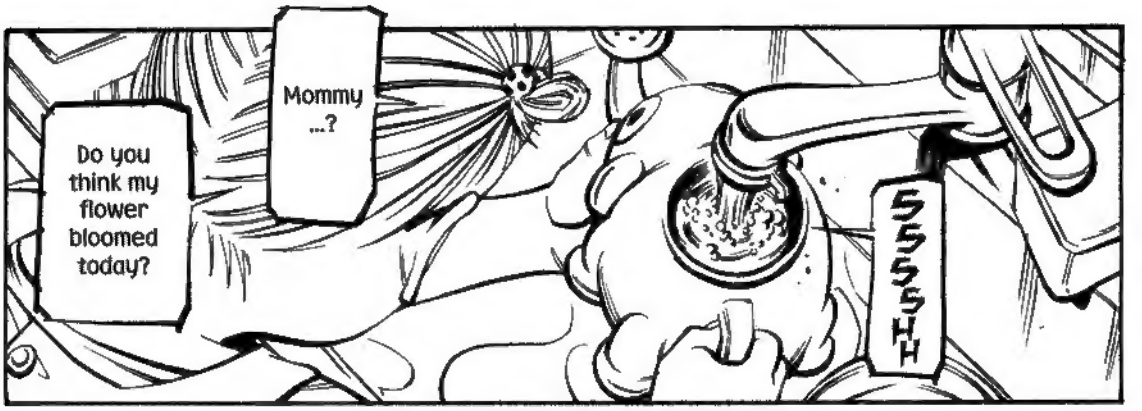
Seki ..... Soil Middle School 8th grader.

Tokita ..... Soil Middle School, substitute science teacher.

Kosaka ..... Soil Middle School, school counselor.

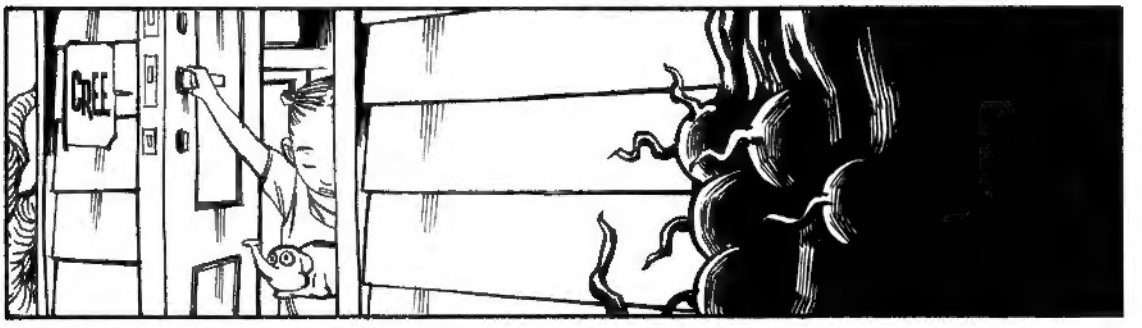
"Miss Sayuri" ..... An old woman living in the shrine ruins located on the town outskirts. **Deceased.**

"Council President" ..... Soil New Town Council President. **Murdered by Kento Miyahara's mother.**

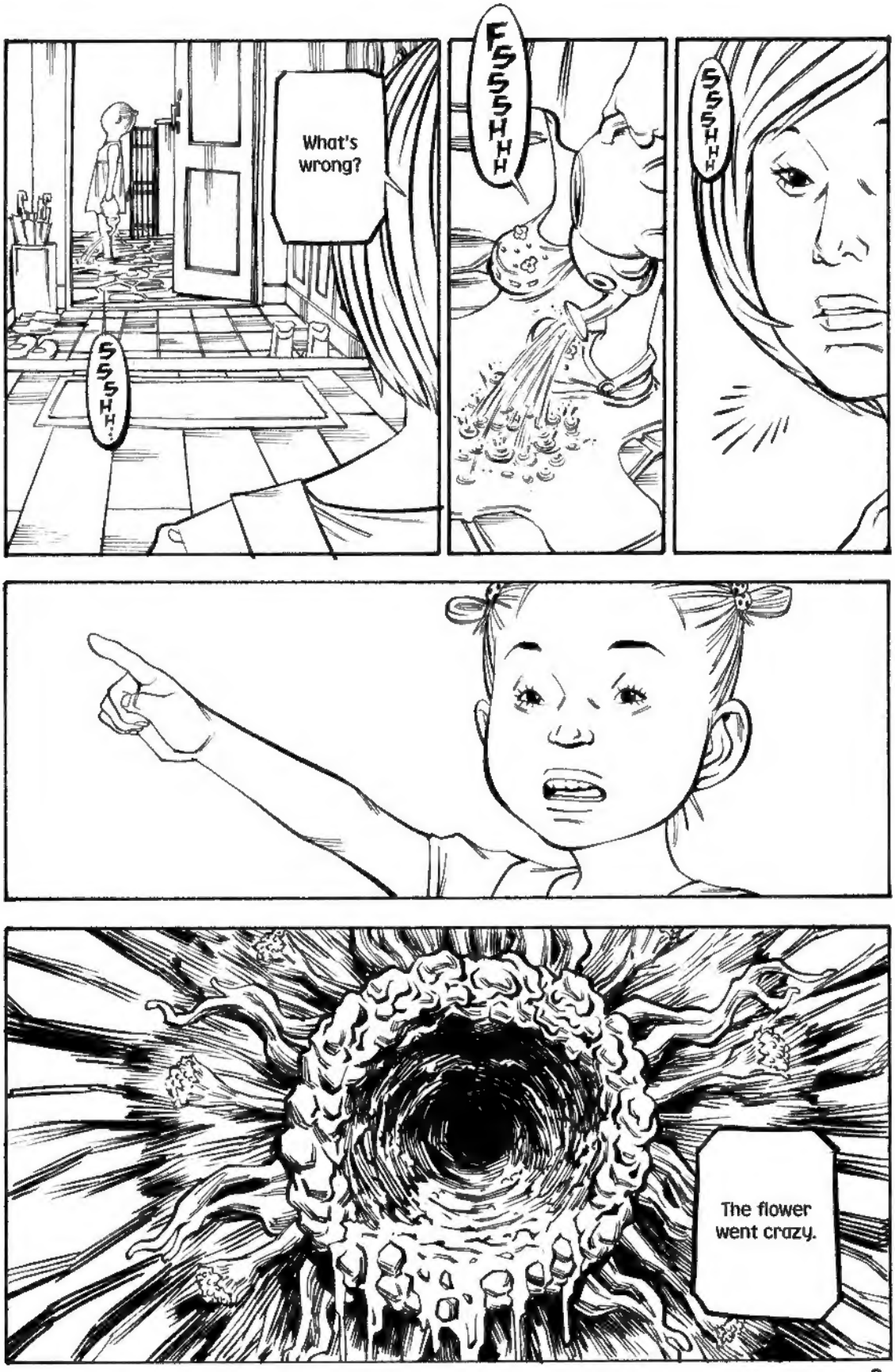

Mommy ...?
Do you think my flower bloomed today?
SSSSHH

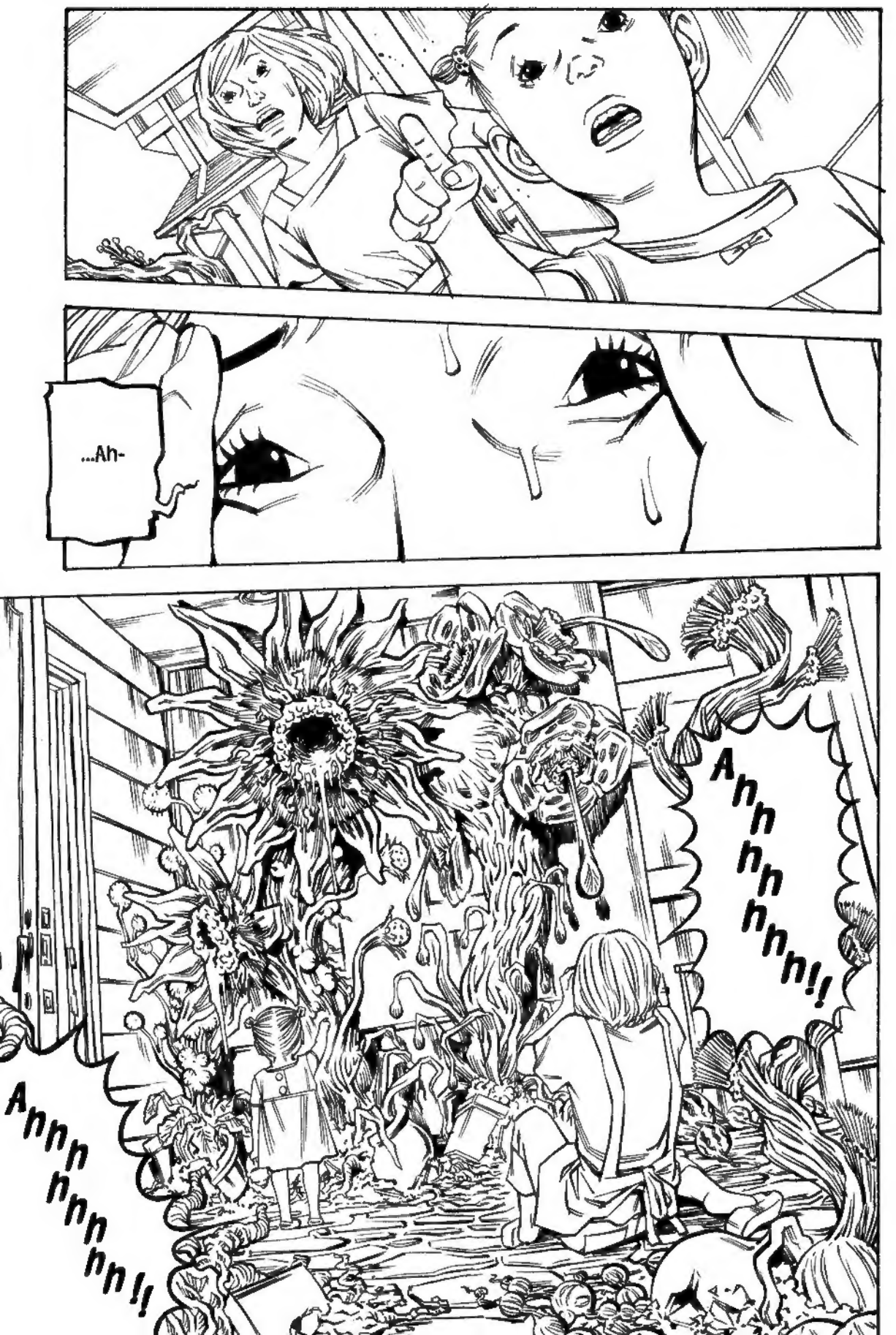
Go easy on the water.
I'm gonna go say "Good morning."
It might wither if you give it too much.

I don't know, honey, you've been taking such good care of that flower...
...it could bloom any day now.


CREE

BLOCK 2-20


What's wrong?
SSSHH
FSSSHHH
SSSHHH
The flower went crazy.


...Ah-
Annnnnn!!
Annnnnnn!!

ZHK
ZHK
ZHK
ZHK
ZHK
ZHK
ZHK
ZHK
ZHK
ZHK
ZHK
ZHK
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ZHK

ZHK ZHK ZHK
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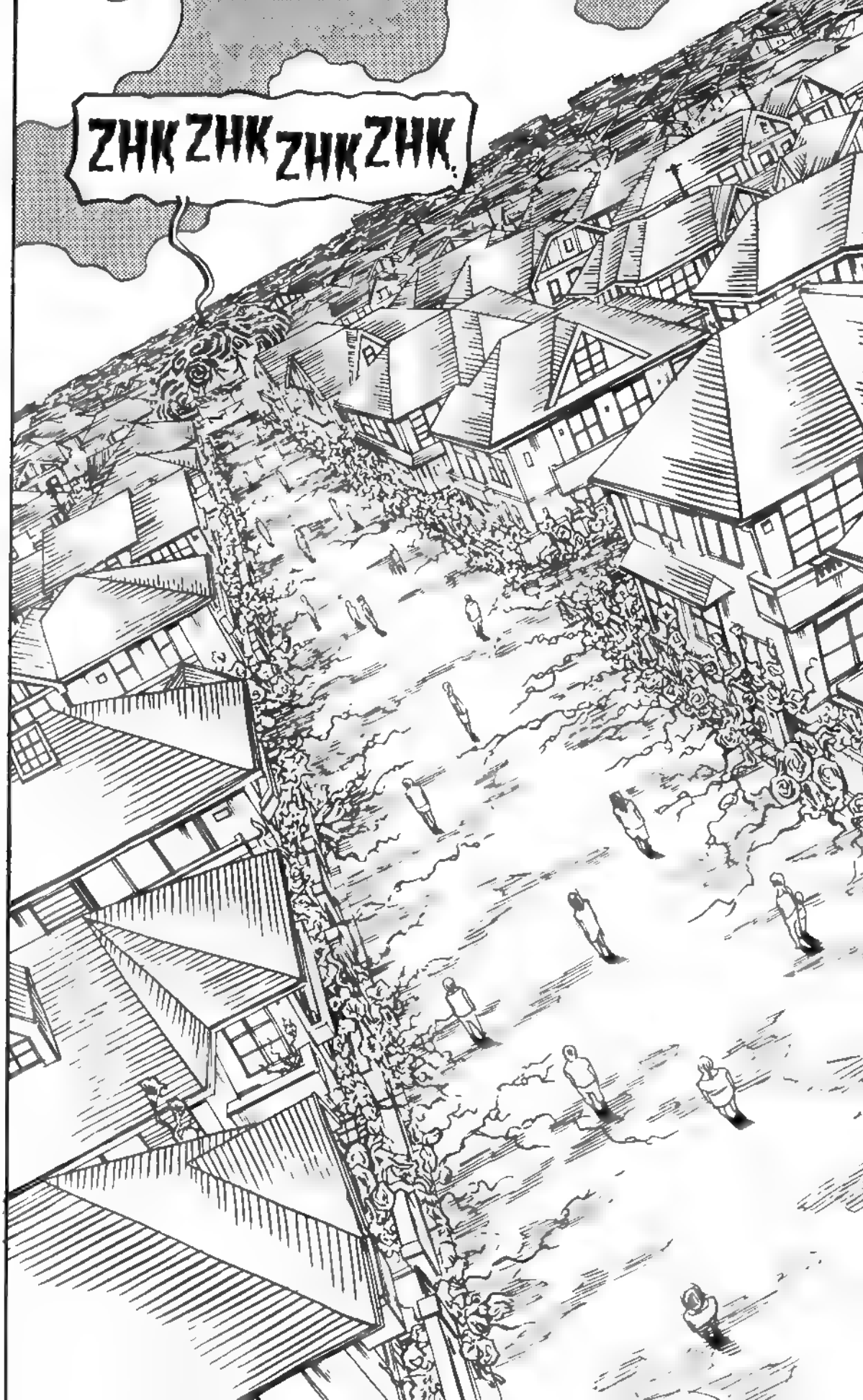
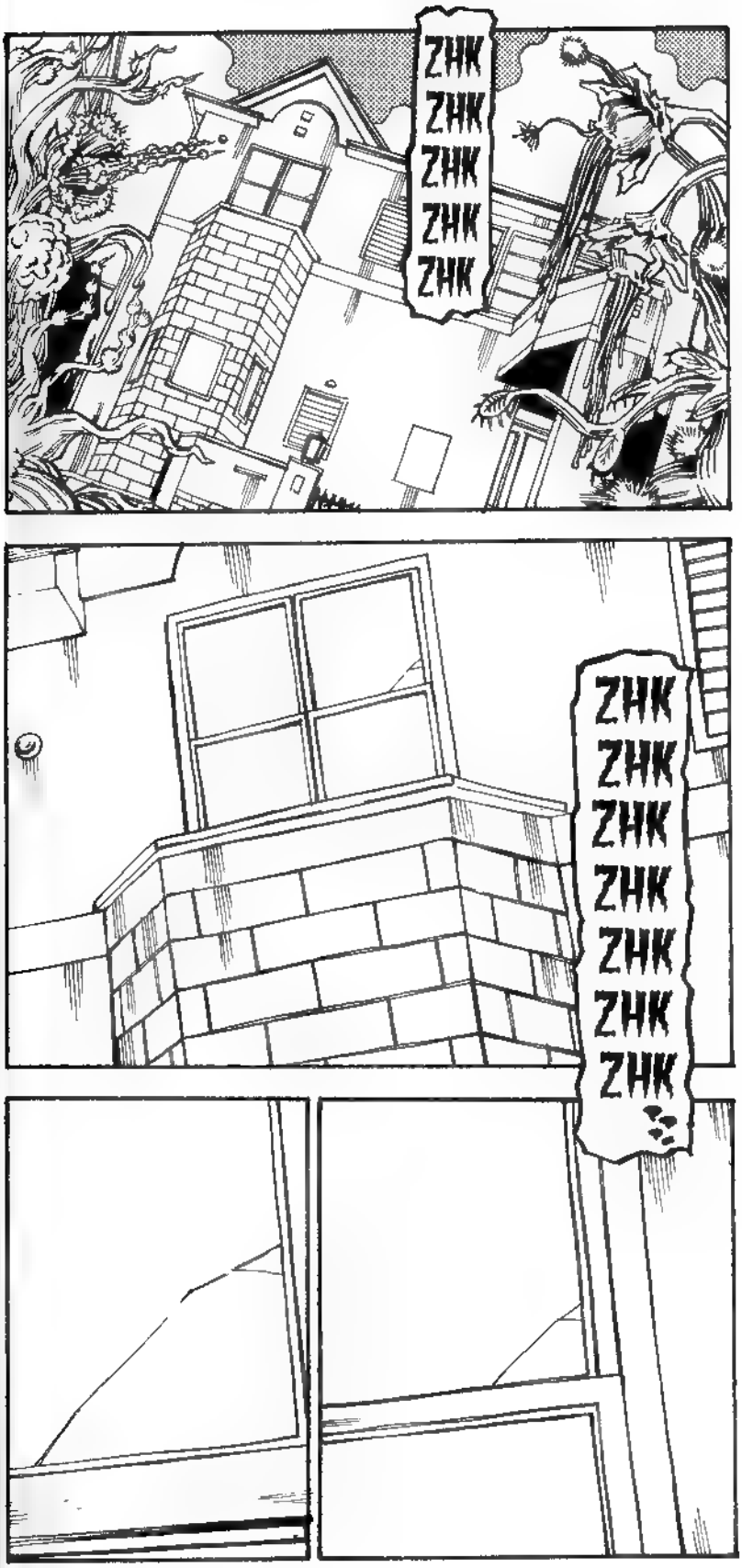
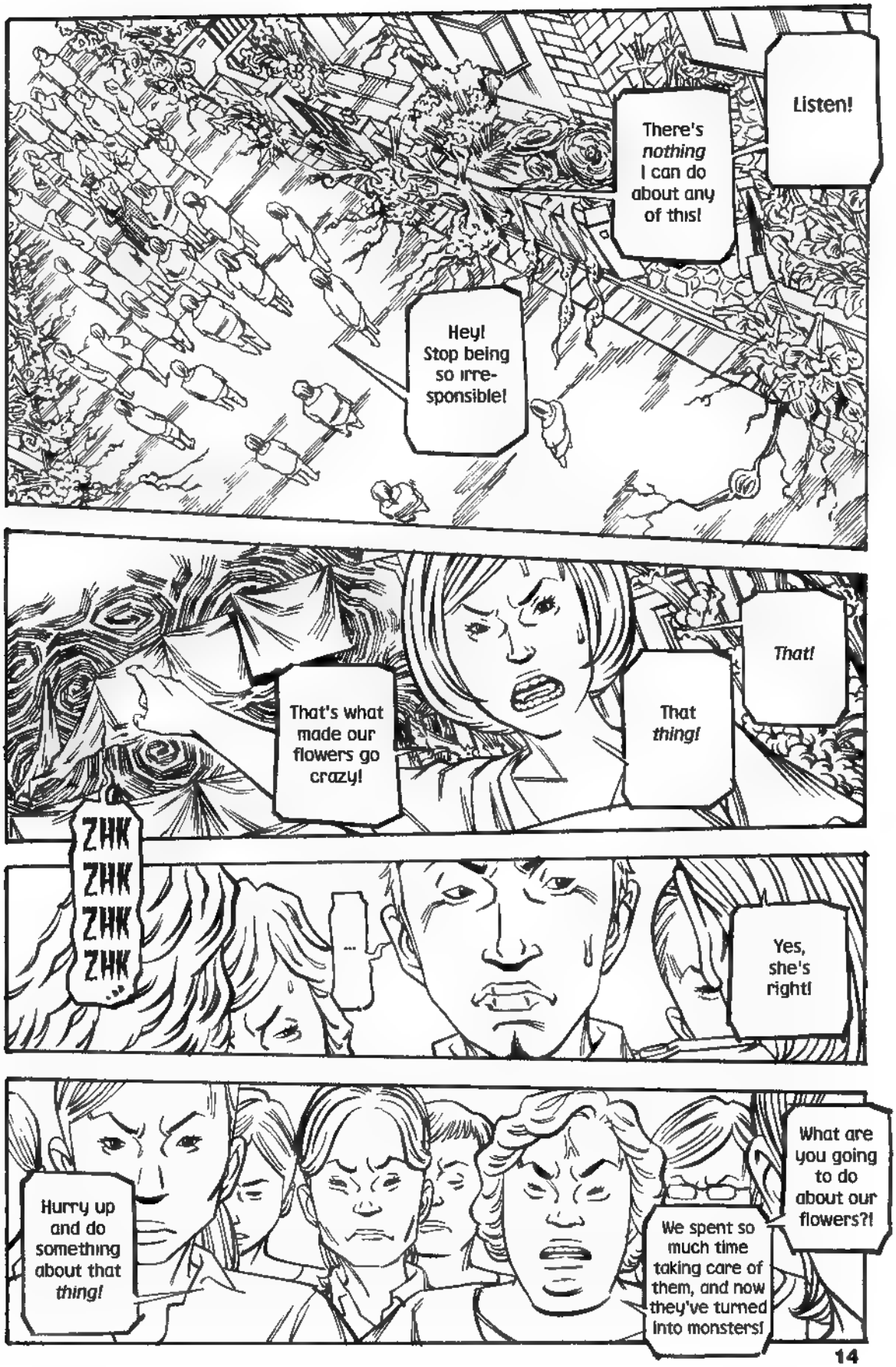
ZHK ZHK ZHK ZHK


ZHK ZHK ZHK ZHK.



[Yokoi]


Listen!
There's *nothing* I can do about any of this!
Hey! Stop being so irresponsible!
That!
That *thing!*
That's what made our flowers go crazy!
ZHK ZHK ZHK ZHK
...
Yes, she's right!
What are you going to do about our flowers?!
We spent so much time taking care of them, and now they've turned into monsters!
Hurry up and do something about that *thing!*

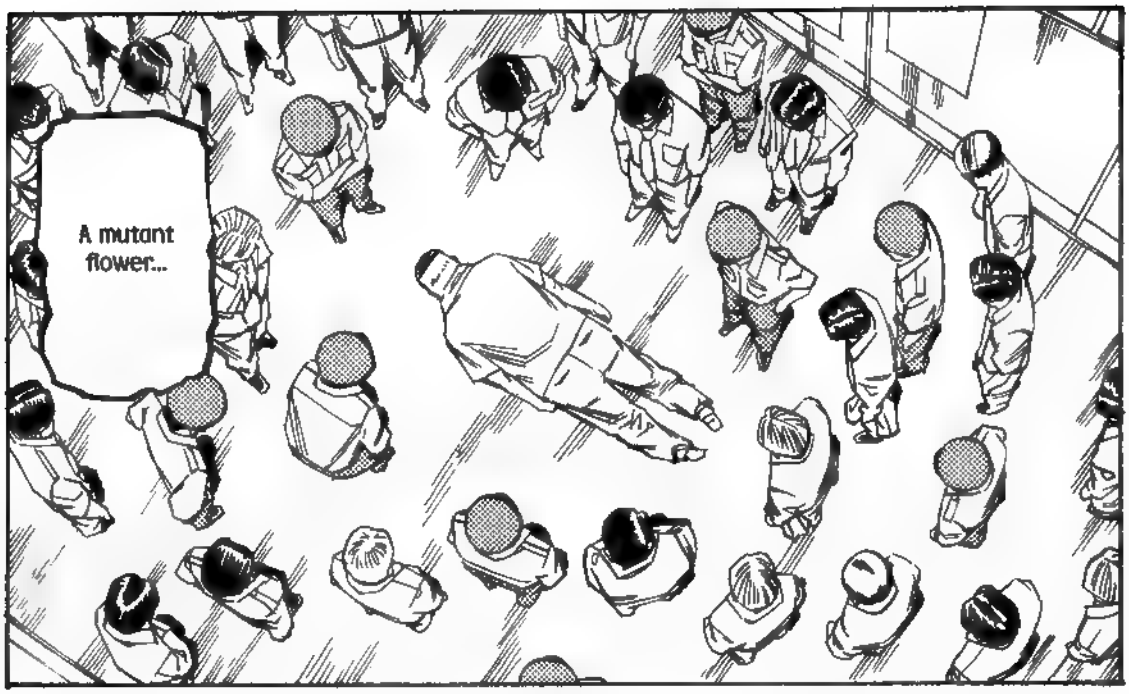
How long is this gonna take?!
Incompetent cop!
...
That's when all the strange things started!
And these things keep happening because you won't hurry up and figure out what happened to the Suzushiros!
What the hell are you doing?! Hurry up and find them!
What she said!
Besides, it's the police's fault for not doing anything to stop those freaky pranks!
...
神川警察署
KAMIKAWA POLICE STATION
RRING
RRING
RRING
RRING
RRING

Huh?
H-h-h-hello...
Oh... O-O-Officer Katakuri...
D-Detective Onoda speaking...
All of them...? Last night...?
All of the flowers in the town...?!
F-flowers ...?!
What the hell do they expect *me* to do?!
I'm getting pretty sick and tired of all this crap, ya know.
ZHK ZHK ZHK

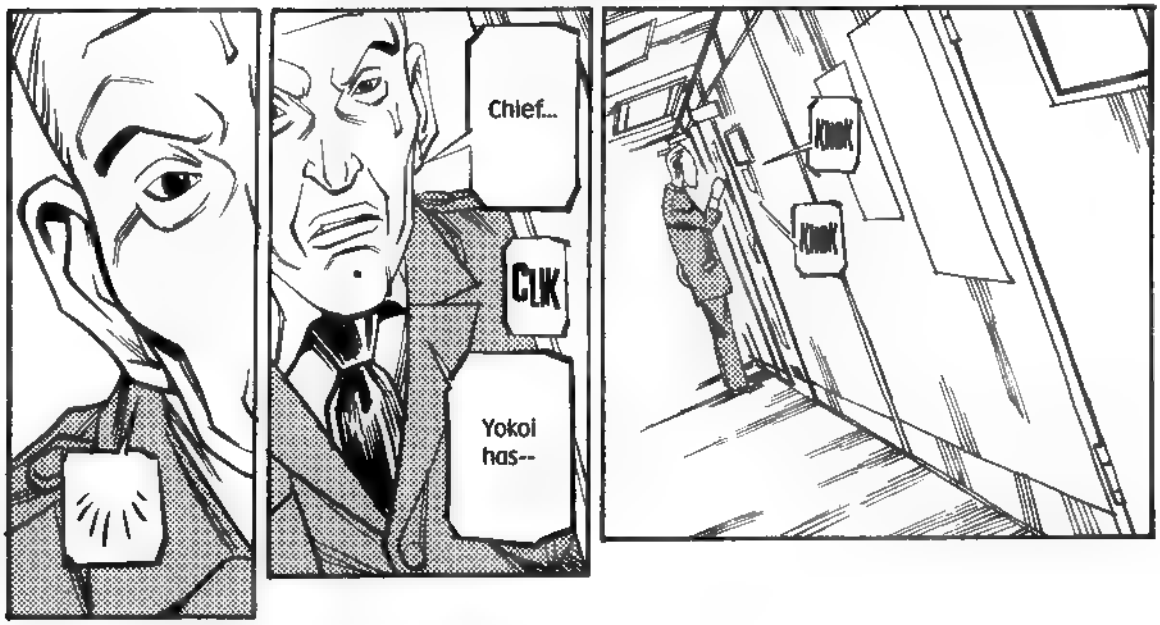
A-actually, something's come up over at the station as well...
Really?
SNOOZE...
I-I'll fill you in later...
SNOOOZE...

Snore...
Who's this dirty-looking guy?
What's he doing in the middle of the hallway?
Good morning, sir.
Oh, Assistant Chief!
What's all the ruckus so early in the morning?
He was missing these past several days, but late last night...
...we found him sitting in the cafeteria having some noodles...
Is that Yokoi...?
Yes, sir...
Snoooze...
And... As soon as he finished eating and walked out into the hallway...

Don't wake him up.
What should we do? Maybe carry him over to the resting area, and--
Leave him.
...
GASP


A mutant flower...

CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

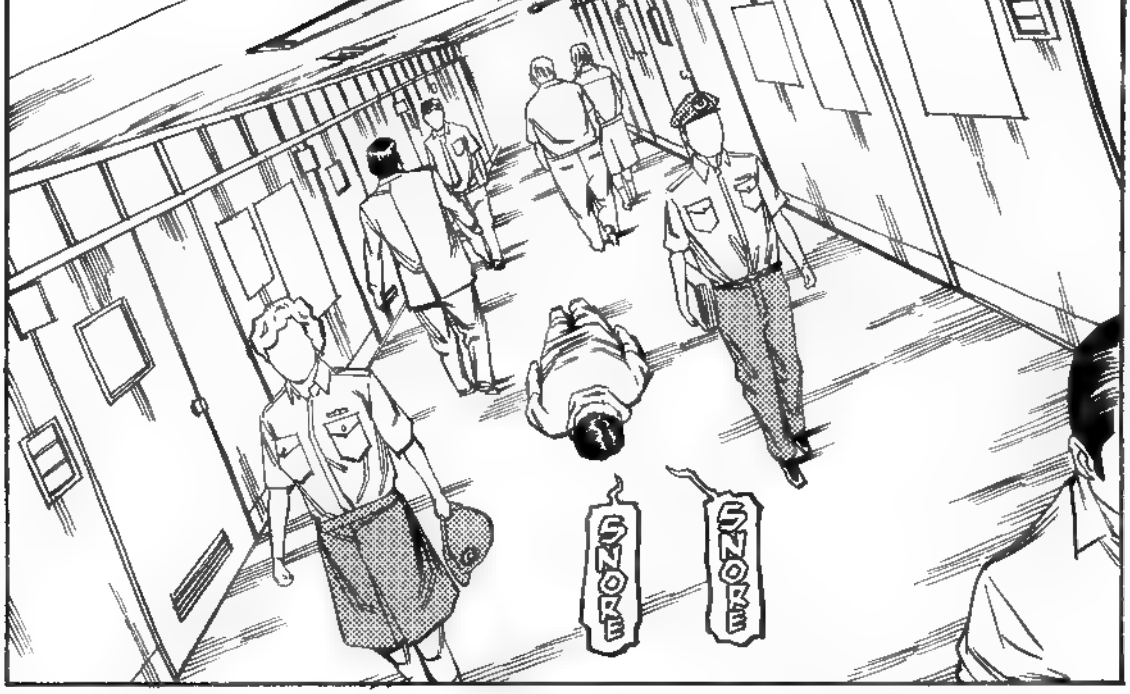

Chief...
CLK
Yokoi has--
KNOK
KNOK

...

...
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE

"Incom-
petent,"
eh...

The alternate dimension sensor is getting a huge reading!
Wow! Take a look, Tomiyama!
That sucks...
I'm doing my fucking best here, ya know...
Not exactly! That one gave us a negative wavelength, but this one's giving us a positive one!
Hmm... Looks like the same reading we were getting from the Council President's house!
The two locations must be resonating with one another!
I see! So you've used up your education savings on a bogus product yet again!
...
That's what I can't figure out, Tomiyama!
So? What exactly does that mean, Seki?!
The user's manual was written in Russian.


SNORE
SNORE

We got kicked out of headquarters, so we just have to deal with it.
Well, yeah, this *is* the "Lost and Found" room, after all.

Rrrrgh...
GRAT
GRAT
Th-there are ticks in this room...

This guy who works in the Akasaka district told me...

Y-y-you were going to tell me how Sergeant Yokoi got transferred over to this station...?
S-s-so... Umm...
GRAT
GRAT

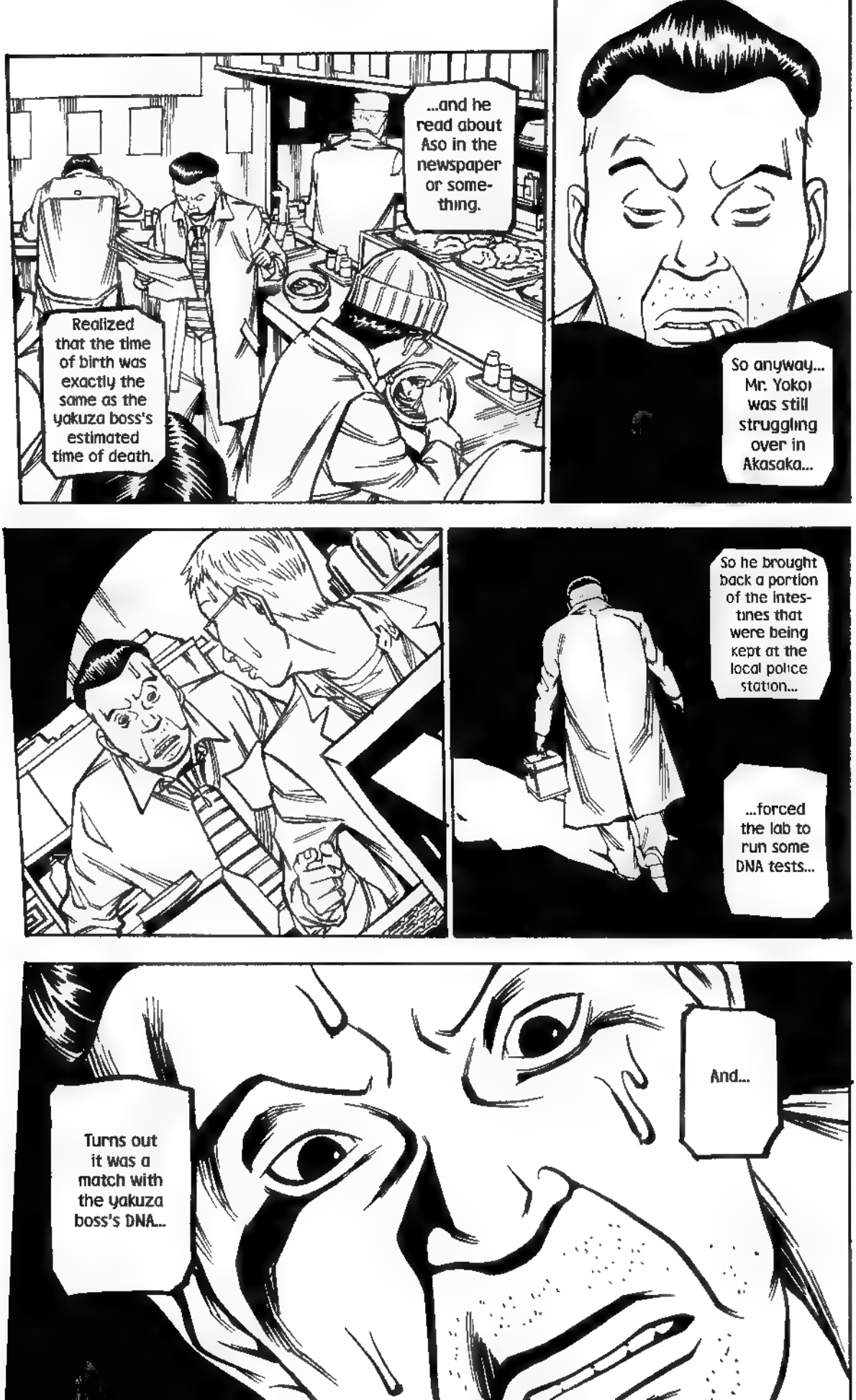
GLANCE
Yep.

When Mr. Yokoi was over there working the Organized Crime Unit...
...he was Lieutenant, and a pretty famous one, too...
But then he ran into this case that just didn't make sense...

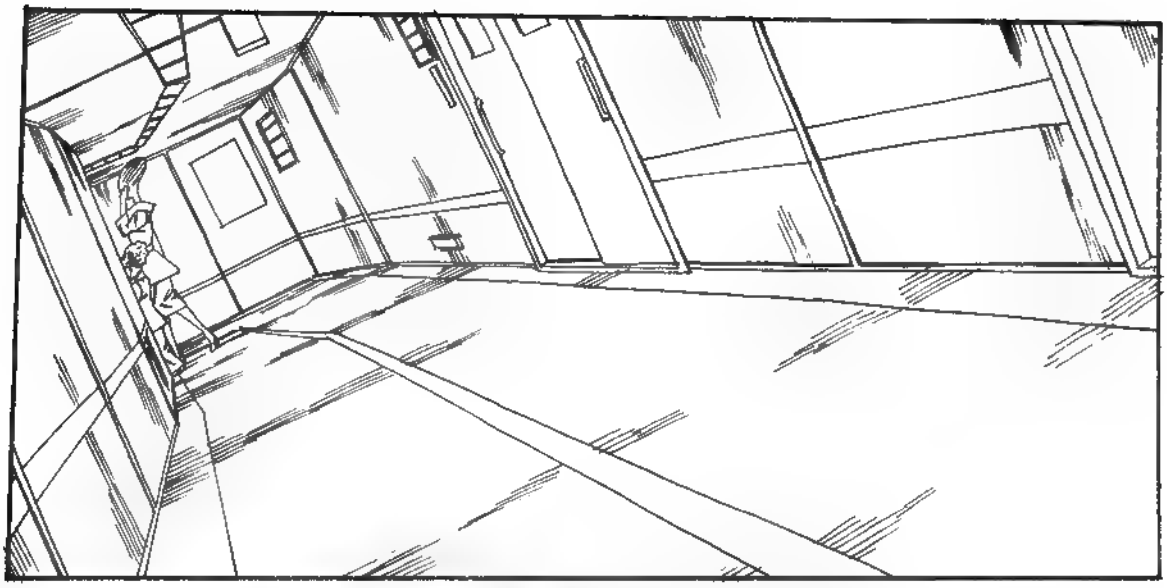
Even though there weren't any external injuries.
Apparently, the guy's intestines were missing.
Just a gaping cavity in his abdomen.
One of the yakuza bosses he was in charge of...
...died a strange death.
The yakuza was right in the middle of a turf war, so Mr. Yokoi assumed one of the rival families did it...
...and he went around investigating pretty aggressively at first.

He wasn't even trying to figure out how it happened.
All he cared about was getting the culprit, as usual.
But they couldn't get any leads, no matter how hard they tried.
To top it off, one of his men got stabbed in retaliation for all the crap he pulled at the start of the investigation.
It was just a complete disaster...
The investigation reached a dead end.
捜査本
nvestigation Task Force

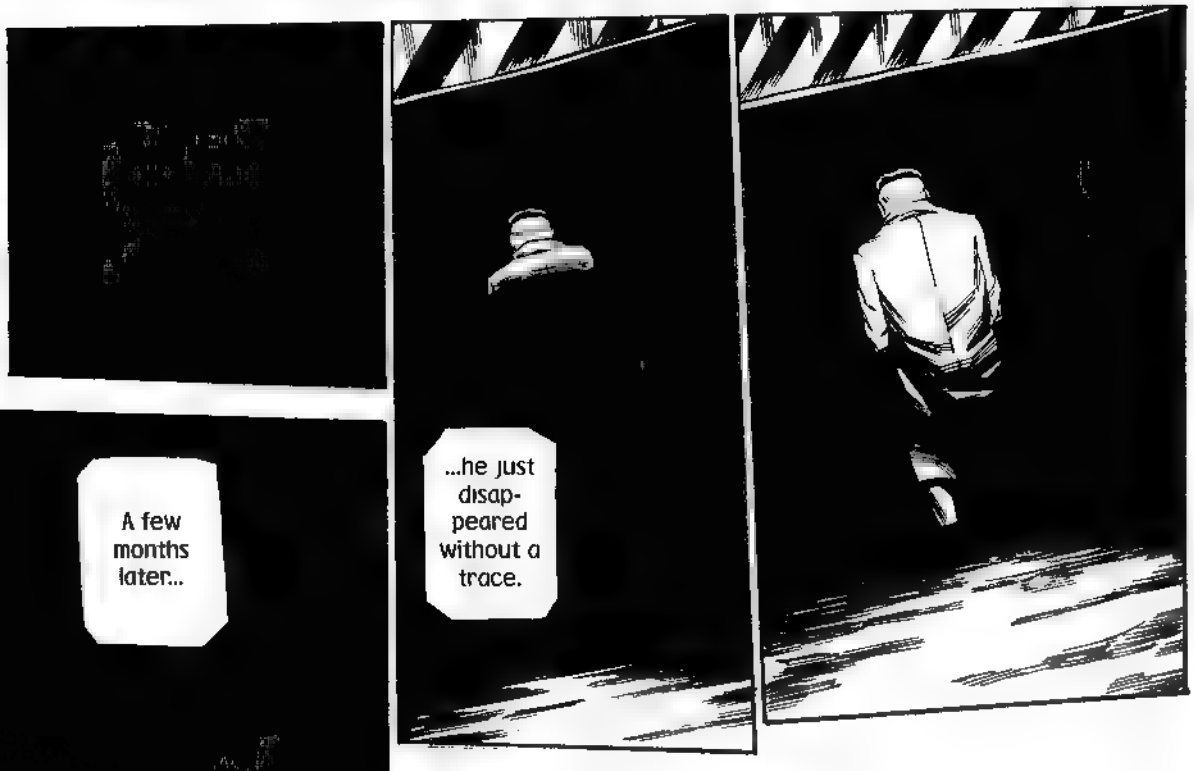
A cow was giving birth, and what looked like human intestines came out along with the calf... Scared the hell out of the ranchers...
Meanwhile, there was this other weird incident all the way across the country in Aso...


...and he read about Aso in the newspaper or something.
Realized that the time of birth was exactly the same as the yakuza boss's estimated time of death.
So anyway... Mr. Yokoi was still struggling over in Akasaka...
So he brought back a portion of the intestines that were being kept at the local police station...
...forced the lab to run some DNA tests...
And...
Turns out it was a match with the yakuza boss's DNA...

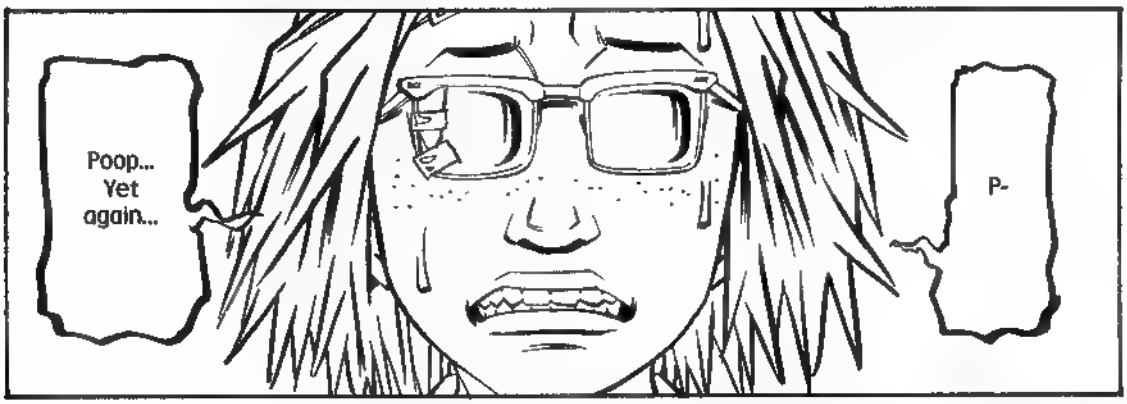
It gets even weirder.
...
The Metro-politan Police Department suddenly called off the entire investigation.
本部

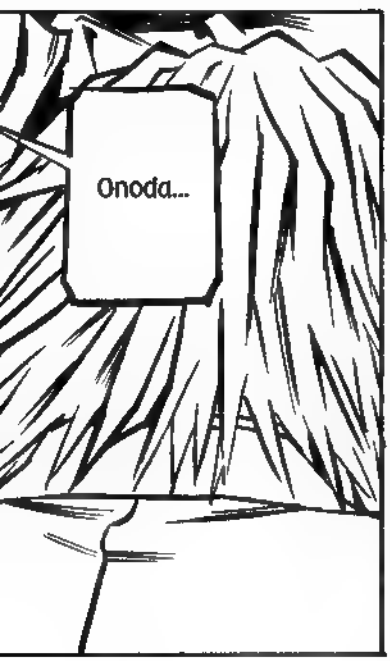


But Mr. Yokoi still wouldn't let go of that case...
...and while he was investigating on his own...


A few months later...
...he just disappeared without a trace.

...he suddenly reappeared at the yakuza boss's house.
And at the crime scene, he...


Poop... Yet again...
P-


Onoda...

But they say he got off pretty easy, considering...

As a result, they demoted him and sent him over to our station.

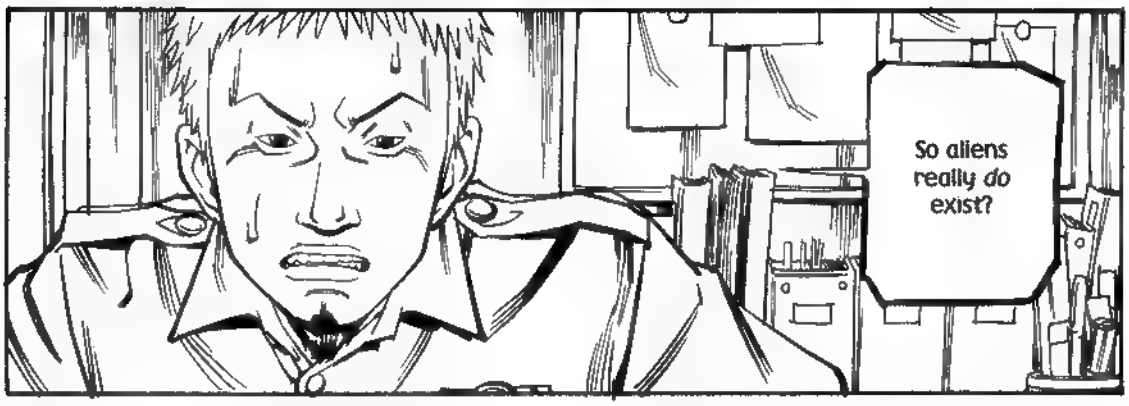
...Th-
That qualifies as sexual harassment, S-S-Sergeant Yokoi...!
D'you take off your glasses when you're about to have sex?
Tell me something...

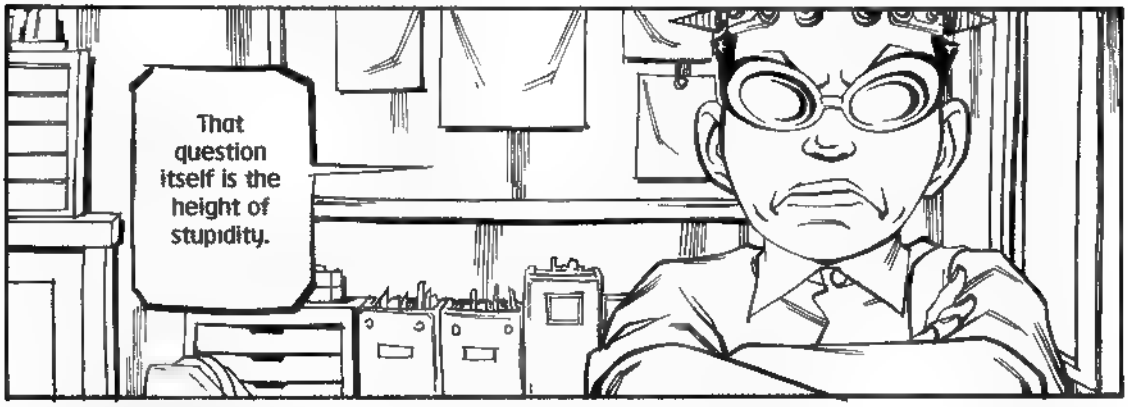
SOIL
Block 2-20 [End]

SOIL

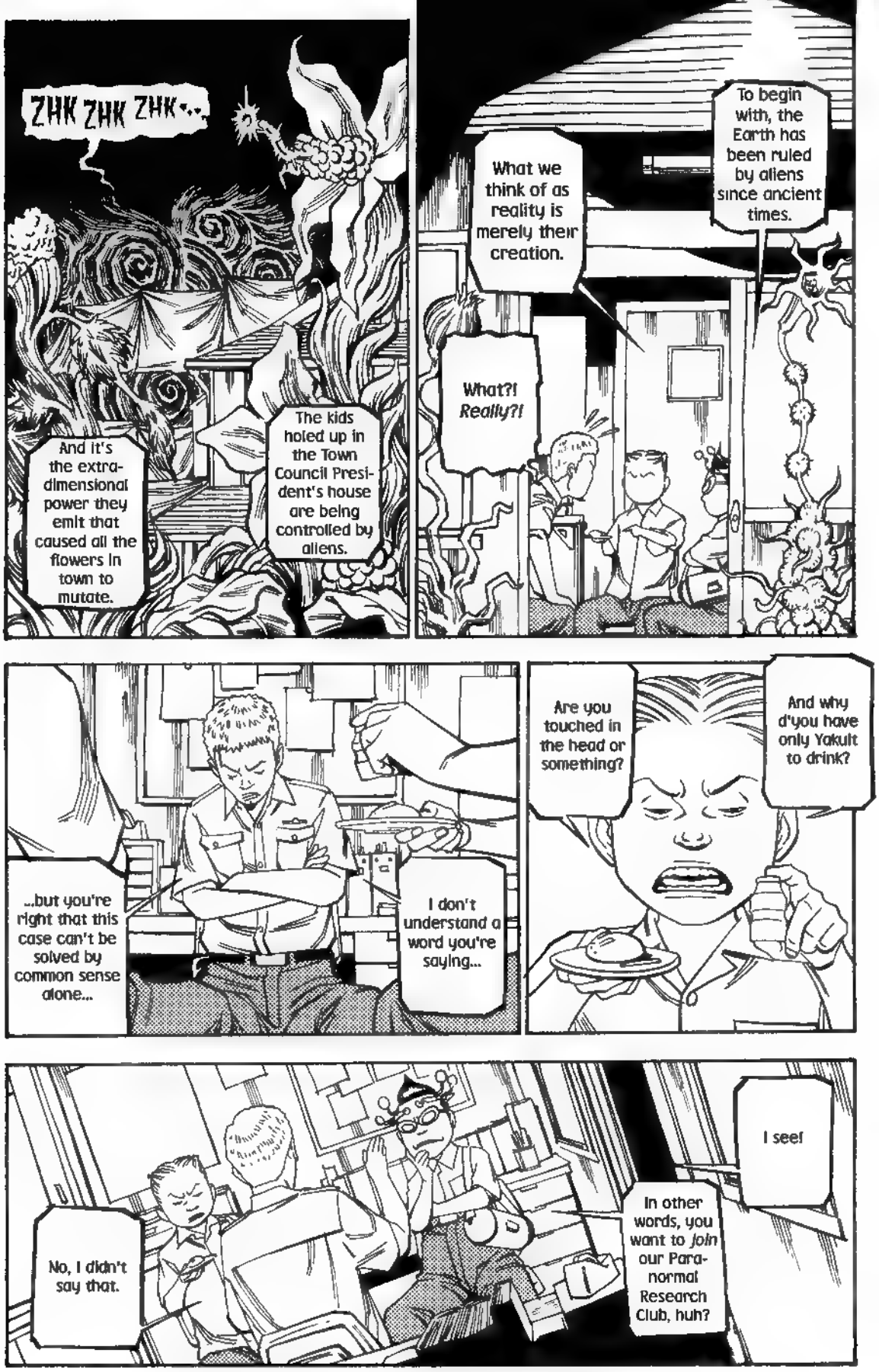
Block 2-21 [Static]

BLOCK 2-21

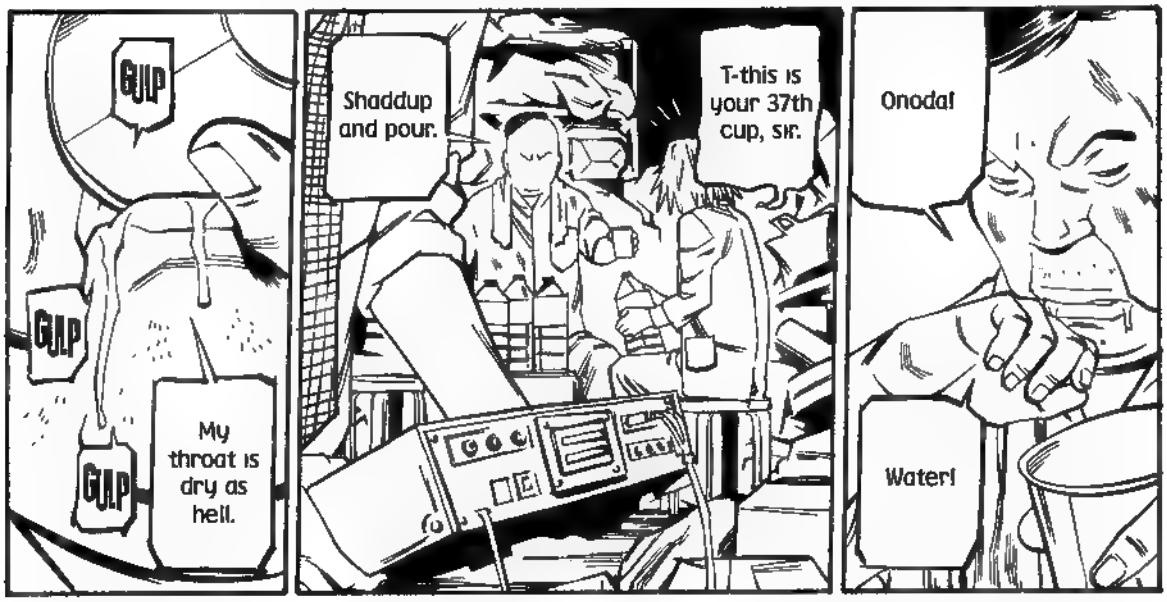




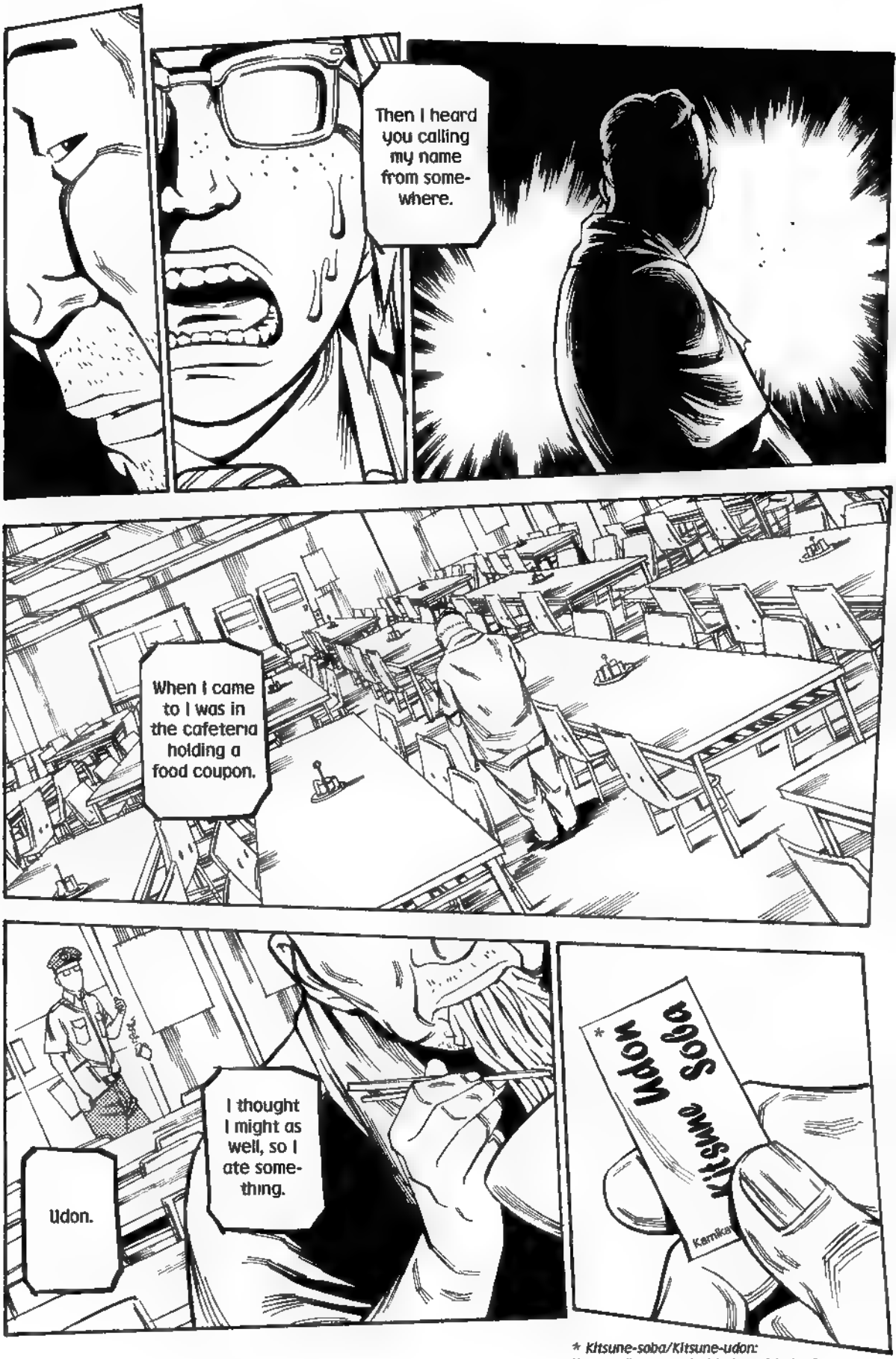
[Static]


ZHK ZHK ZHK...
And it's the extra-dimensional power they emit that caused all the flowers in town to mutate.
The kids holed up in the Town Council President's house are being controlled by aliens.
What we think of as reality is merely their creation.
To begin with, the Earth has been ruled by aliens since ancient times.
What?! *Really?!*
...but you're right that this case can't be solved by common sense alone...
I don't understand a word you're saying...
Are you touched in the head or something?
And why d'you have only Yakult to drink?
No, I didn't say that.
In other words, you want to *join* our Paranormal Research Club, huh?
I see!

GULP
GULP
GULP
GULP

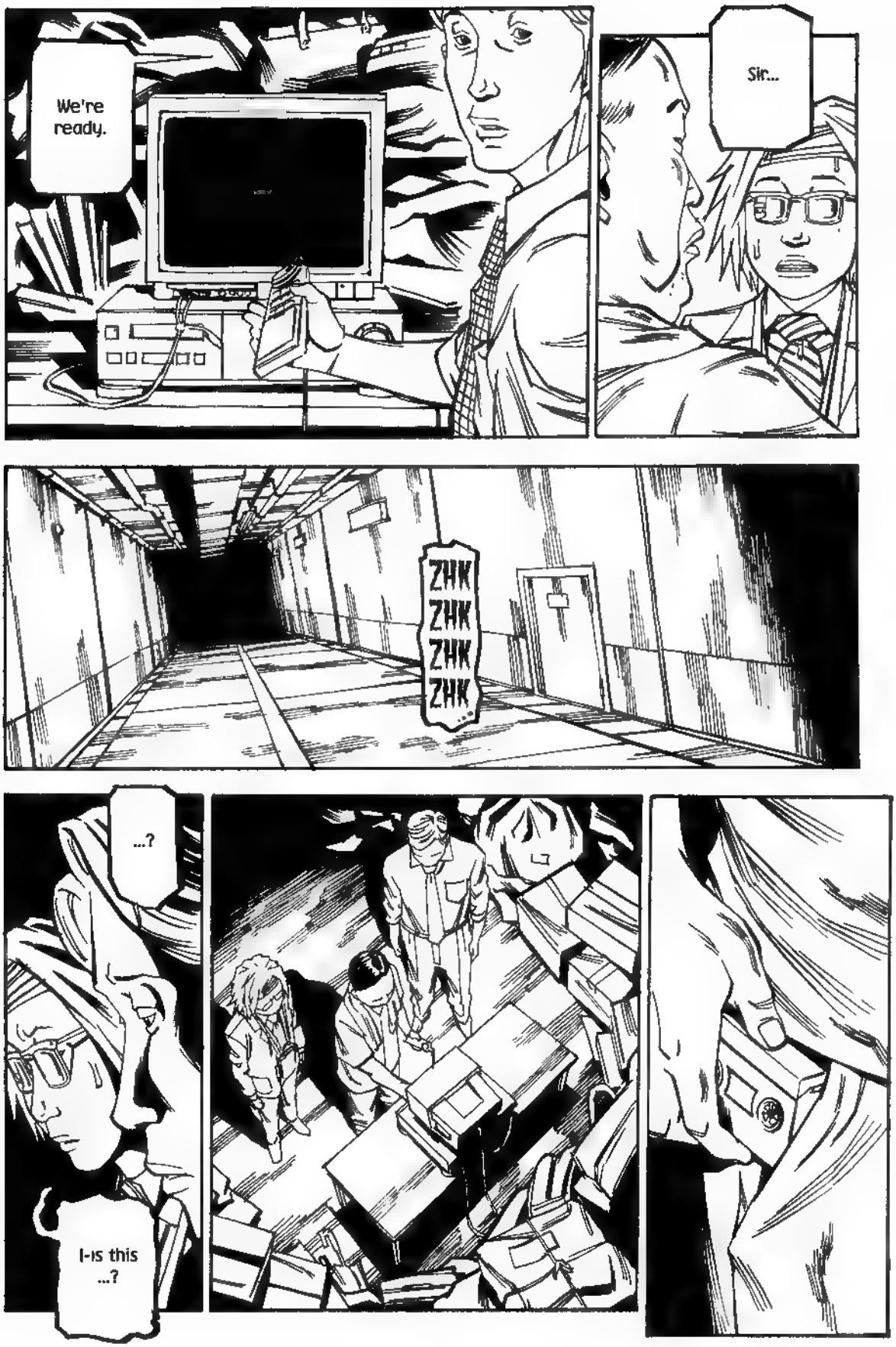

GULP
GULP
GULP
My throat is dry as hell.
Shaddup and pour.
T-this is your 37th cup, sir.
Onoda!
Water!

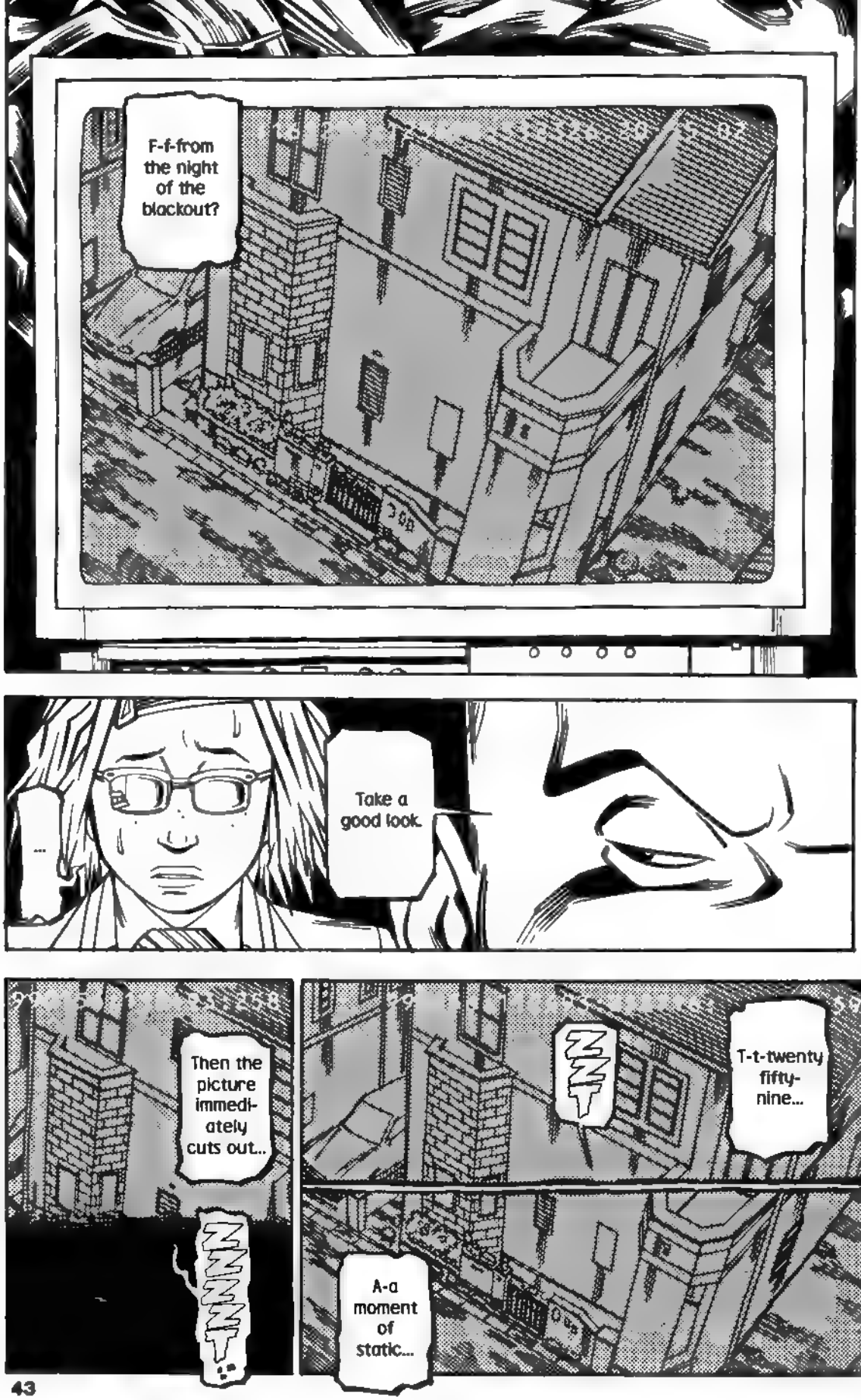
For a while there I couldn't remember where I was.
Stop staring at me like that!
...
...
Pheeeeeeew!

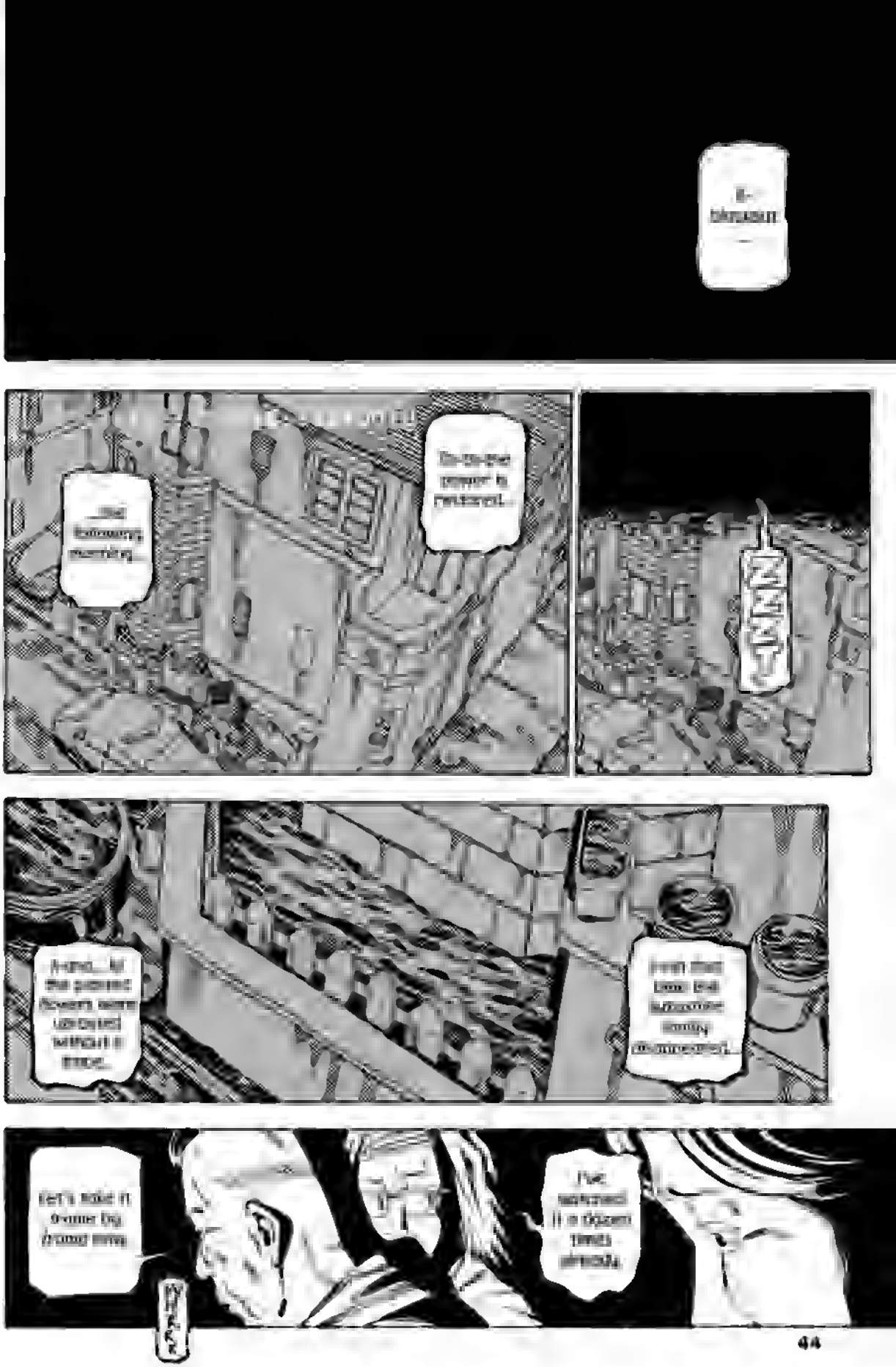

Then I heard you calling my name from somewhere.
When I came to I was in the cafeteria holding a food coupon.
I thought I might as well, so I ate something.
Udon.
Kitsune Udon
Soba
Kamika

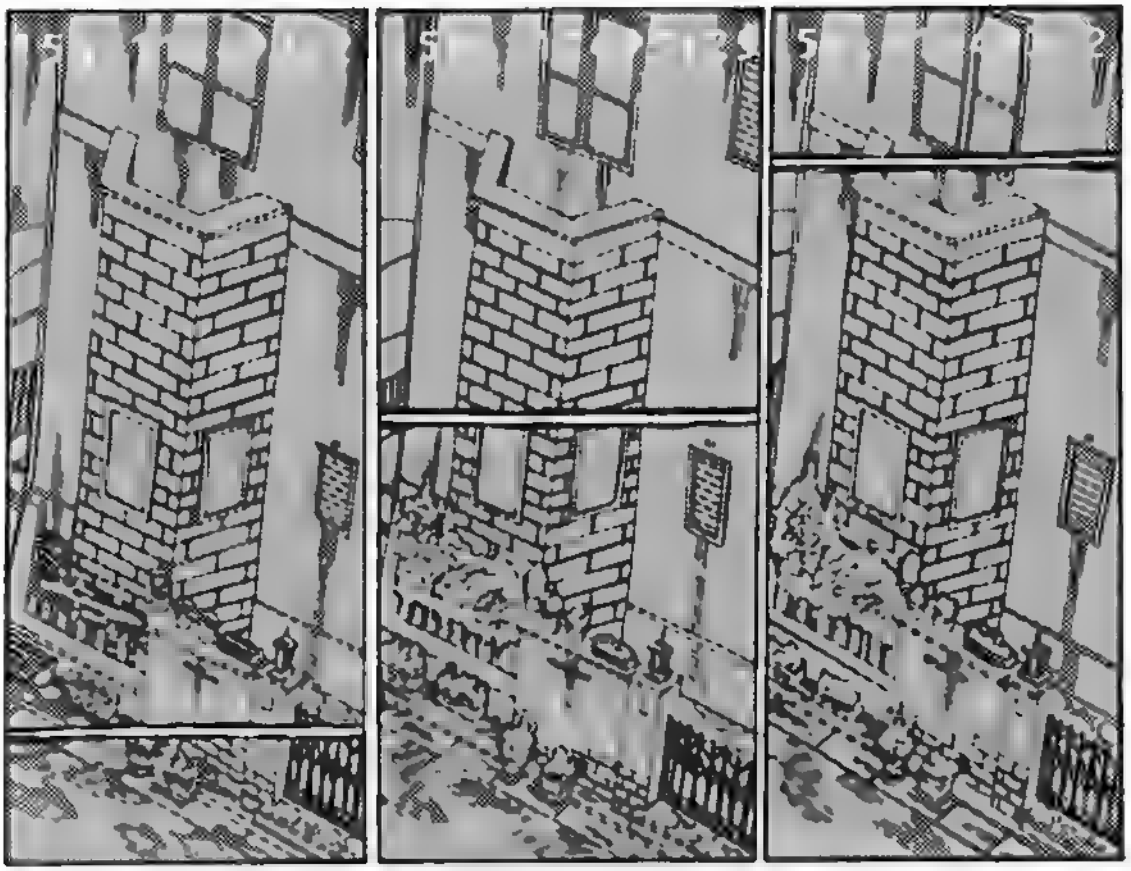
* *Kitsune-soba/Kitsune-udon:*
Hot noodles topped with deep-fried tofu.

B-b-but Sergeant Yokoi, you were in Soil right before that...
Th-th-the proof is under your shoe...
Huh?
...
I-it's a mutant flower...
Last night all the flowers in Soil turned into mutants...
I-I-I was told you were investigating the Soiru Village case...
...a-and also what happened to Detective Yomogida.
Wh-what have you been doing...?
Hmph.
DROP
...
A-anything that could lead us to the heart of the case?
D-d-did you find out anything?


We're ready.
Sir...
ZHK ZHK ZHK ZHK...
...?
I-is this ...?

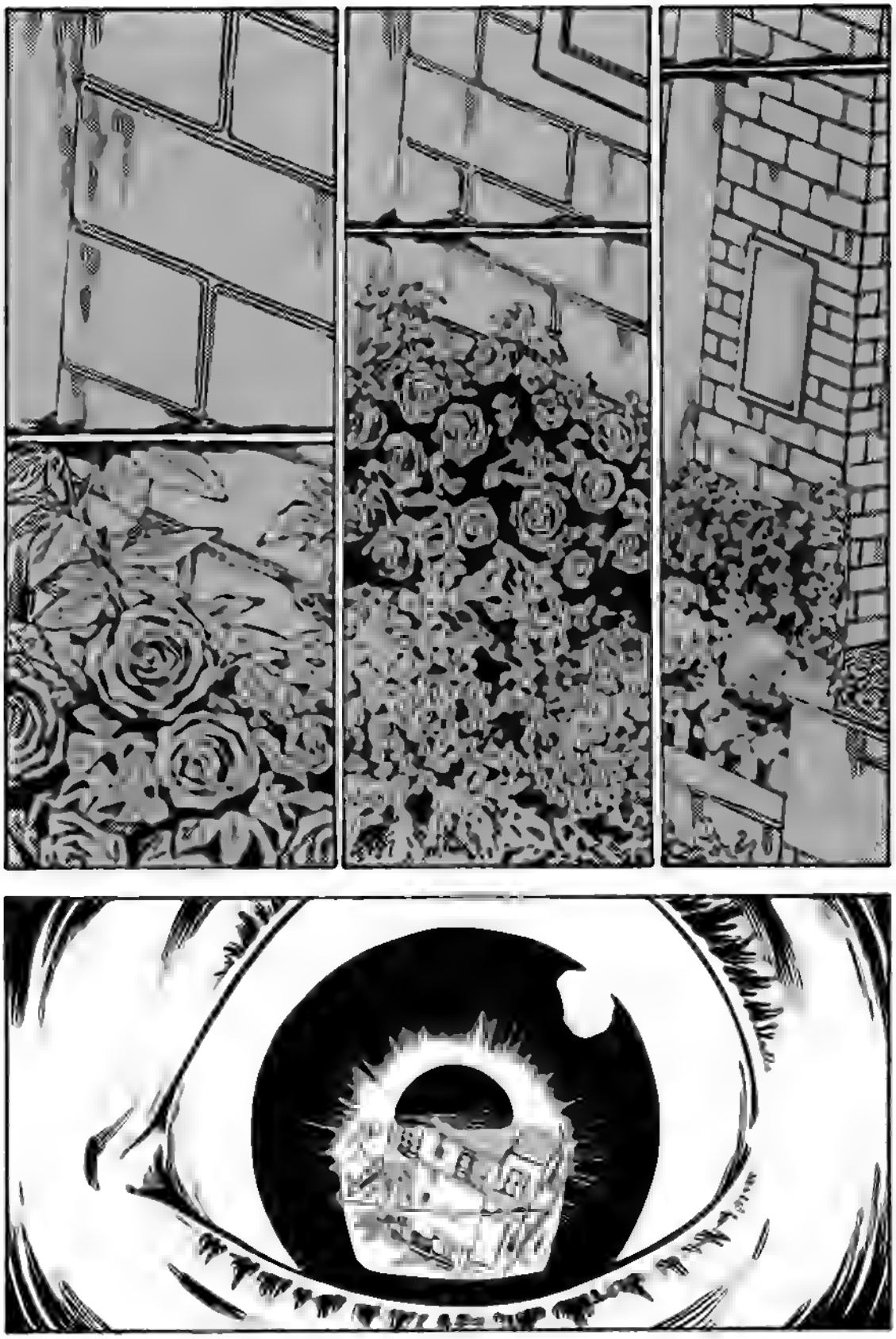

F-f-from the night of the blackout?
...
Take a good look.
Then the picture immedi-ately cuts out...
ZZZZZT!
ZZT
T-t-twenty fifty-nine...
A-a moment of static...

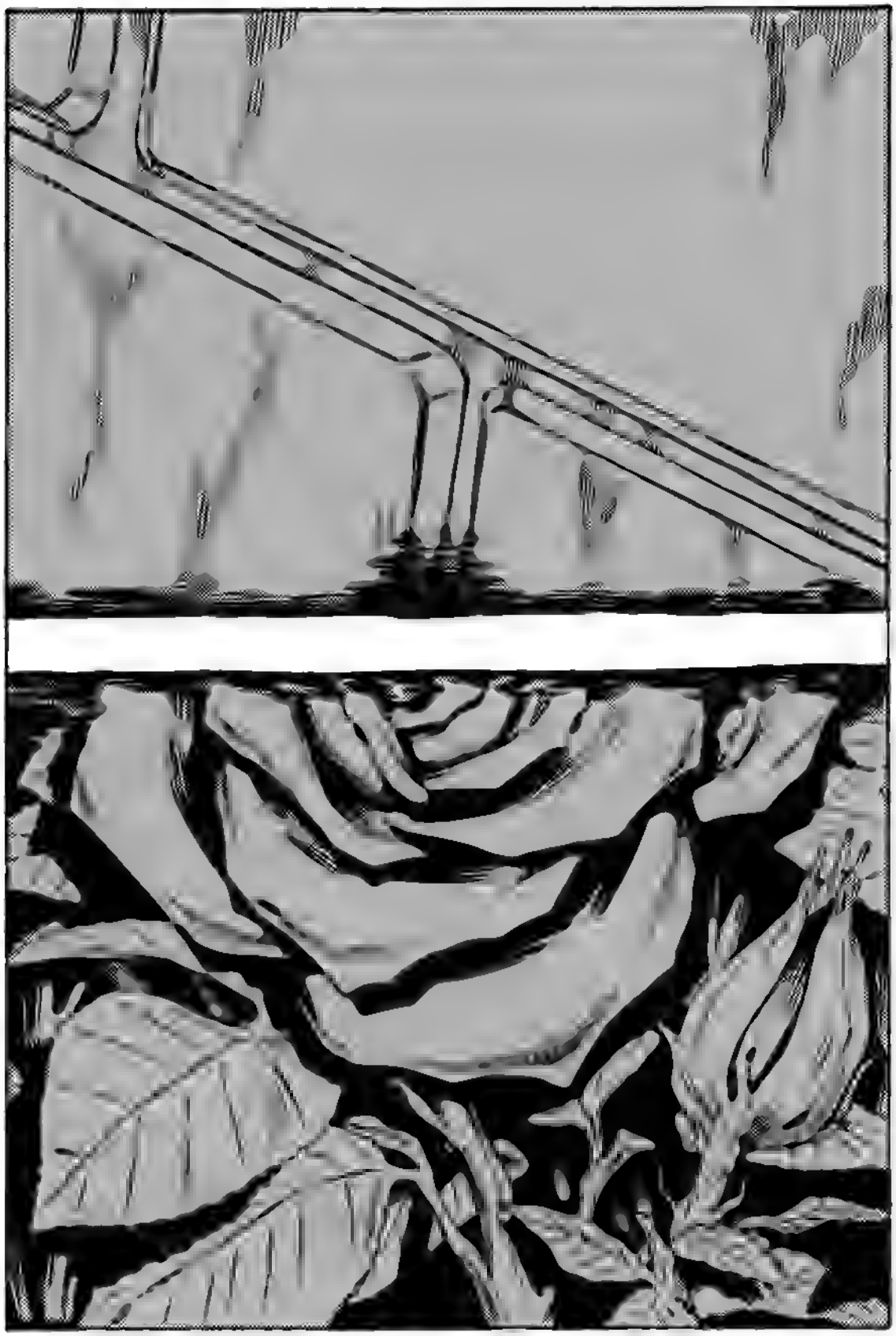

NNNT

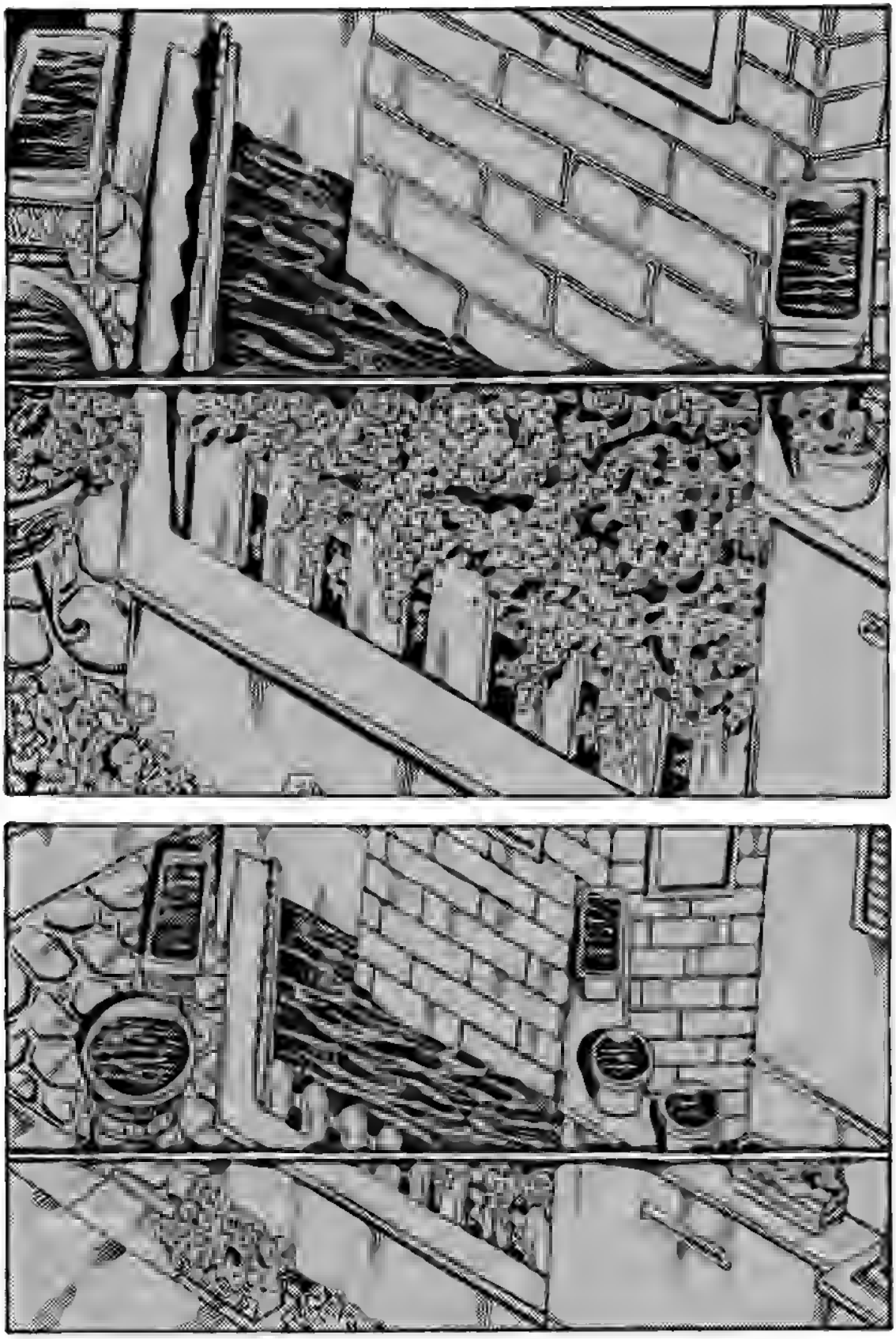


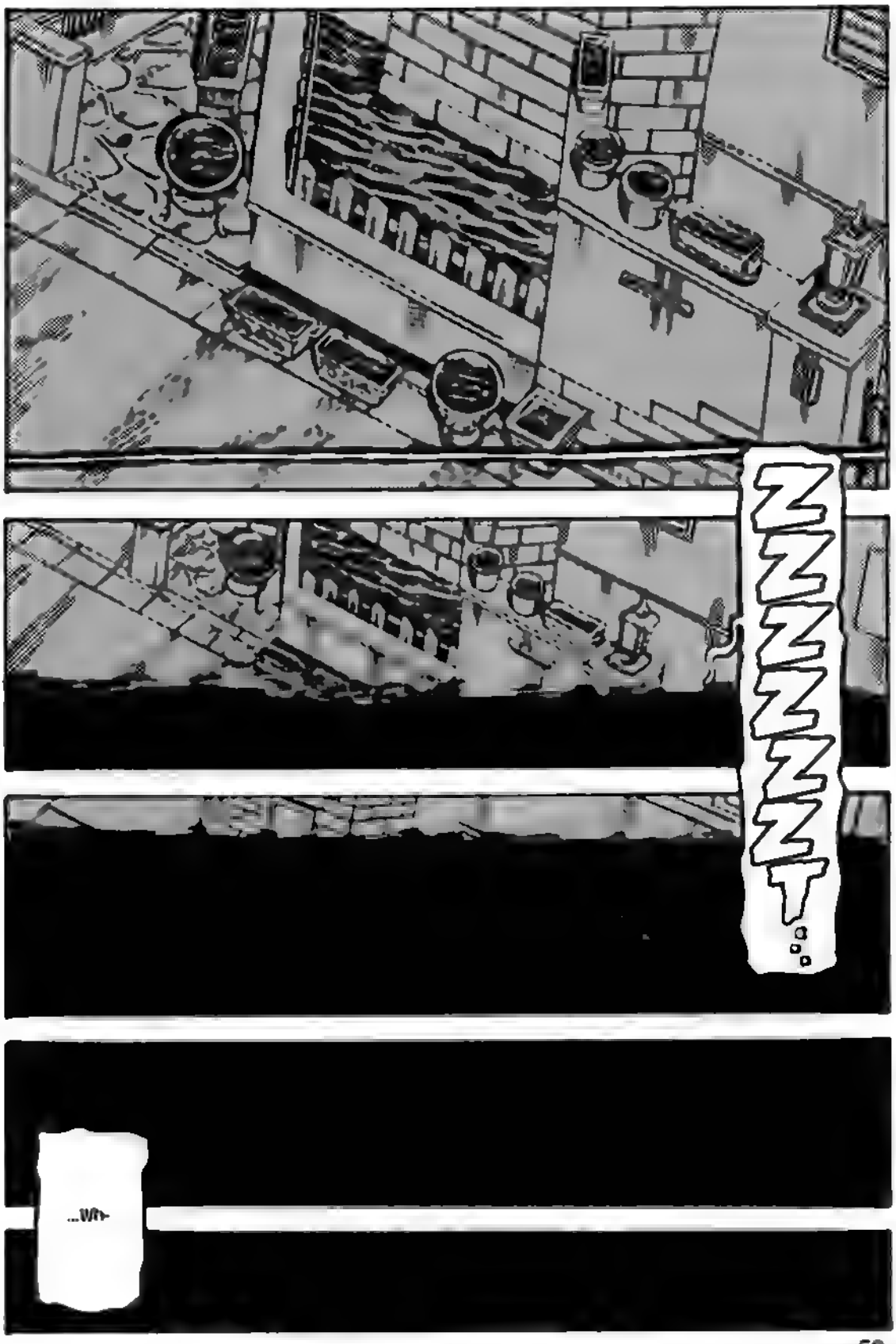
Ahh
?!

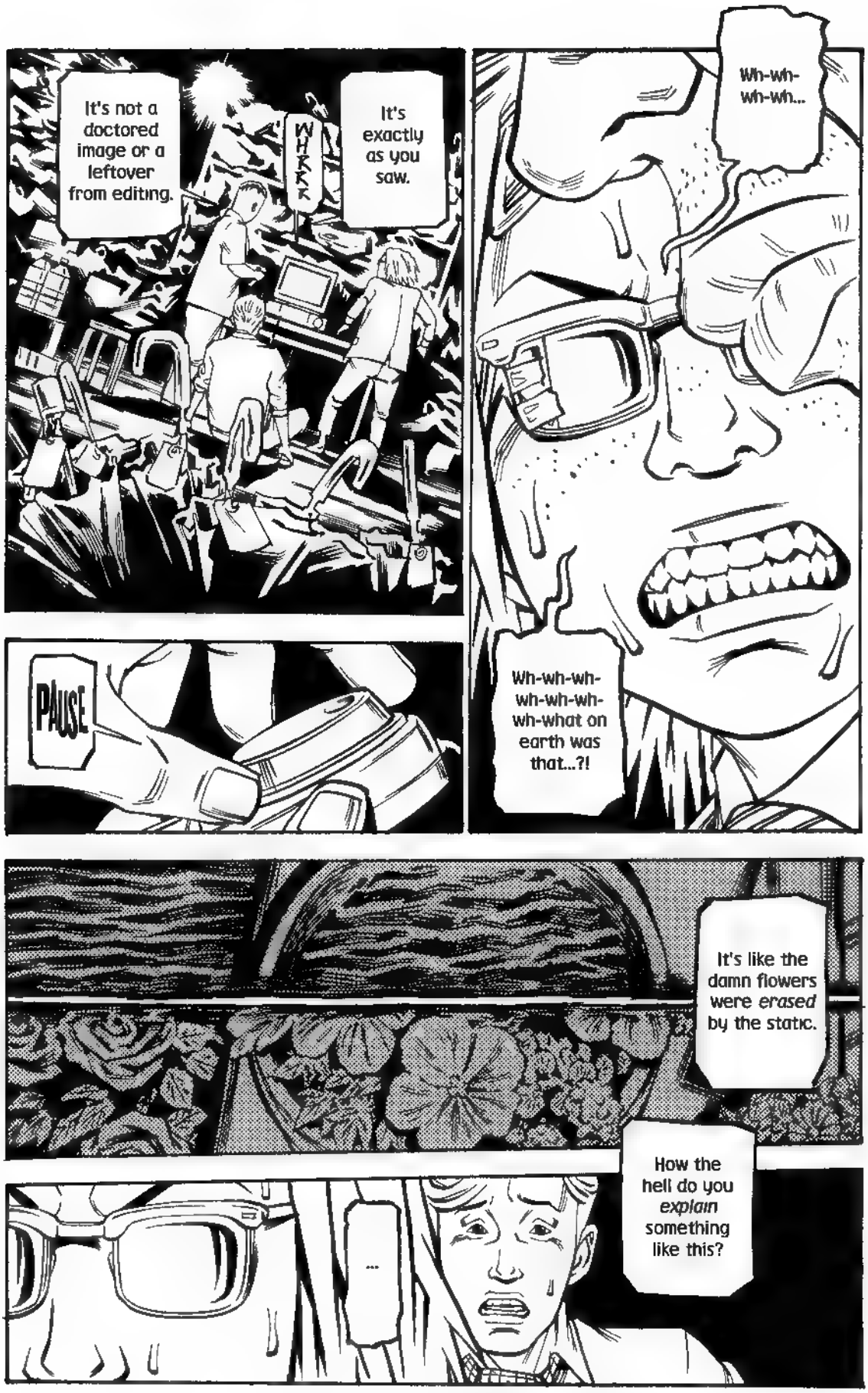
Shhh...
Still don't get it, ugly bitch?
Ahhhhhh-hhhhhhh!
Ahhhhhh-hhhhhhh-hhhhhh!
These flowers.
Right here





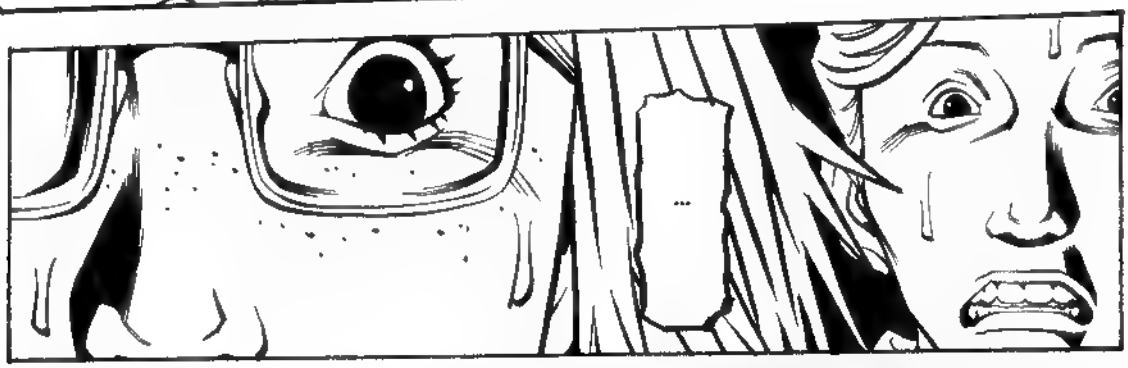


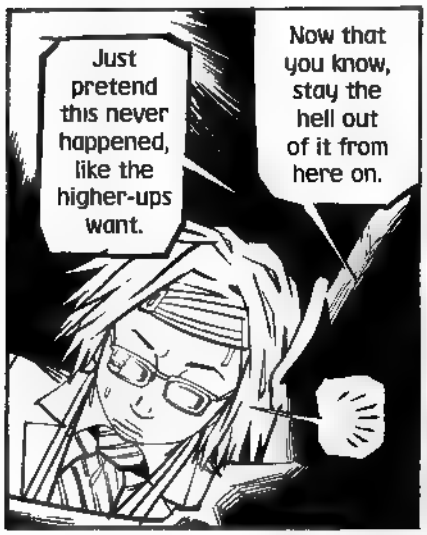

ZZZZZZT...
...Wh-

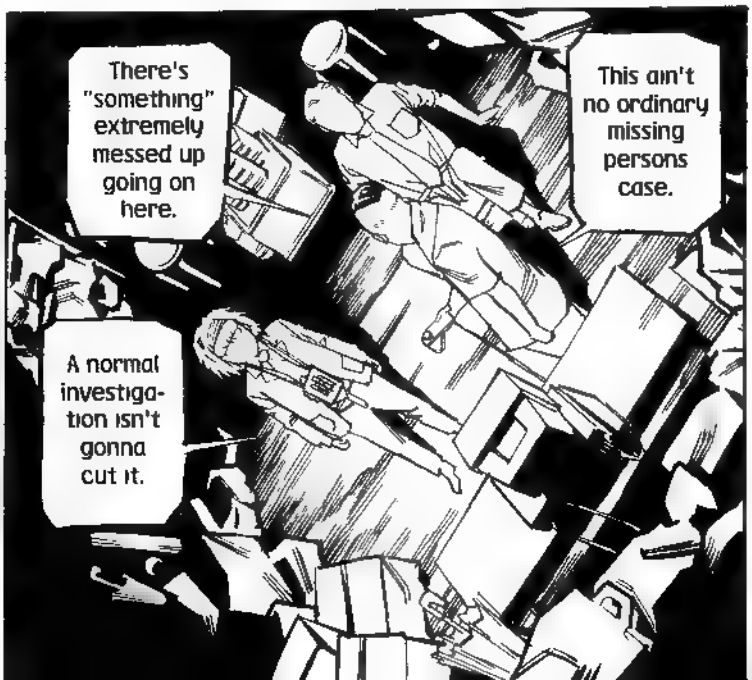

It's not a doctored image or a leftover from editing.
WHRKK
It's exactly as you saw.
Wh-wh-wh-wh...
Wh-wh-wh-wh-wh-wh-wh-what on earth was that...?!
PAUSE
It's like the damn flowers were *erased* by the static.
How the hell do you *explain* something like this?
...

And that's when this static bar ran down the screen.
...which means that there was a brief delay between the electricity going out and the image cutting off.
There must have been some power left in the recording machine...
Rather, they "disappeared at the same moment the power outage occurred."
The Suzushiros' flowers weren't "uprooted by someone during the blackout."
In other words...
...that's impossible to explain.
What's more, they did so in a mysterious way...

This is its true nature.
This is the essence of this case...


...

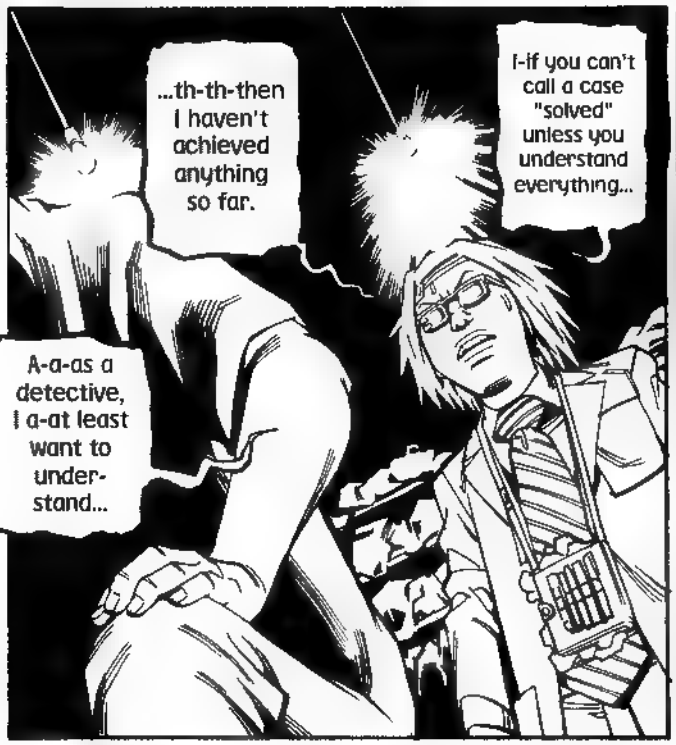

Just pretend this never happened, like the higher-ups want.
Now that you know, stay the hell out of it from here on.

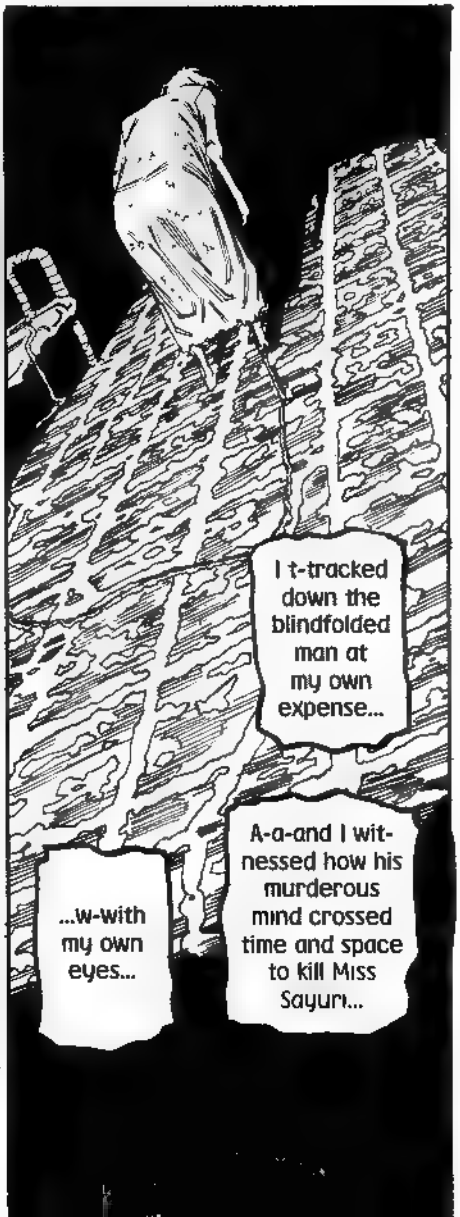

There's "something" extremely messed up going on here.
This ain't no ordinary missing persons case.
A normal investiga-tion isn't gonna cut it.

Guess I drank too much water.
Oh.
Hm?
U...
Umm, sir...
I-I don't wanna end up like this!
Y-you stink! You're filthy! You're an embarrass-ment!
Y-y-y-y-you're scum! You're a madman!
Nooooooo!!
Nooooooo!!
UGH
...
Annnnnnn!!
TMP TMP TMP
WHUMP
I'm scaaaaaa-aaared!

...deeply enmeshed in this case, sir.
I-I'm afraid I'm already...
Huh?

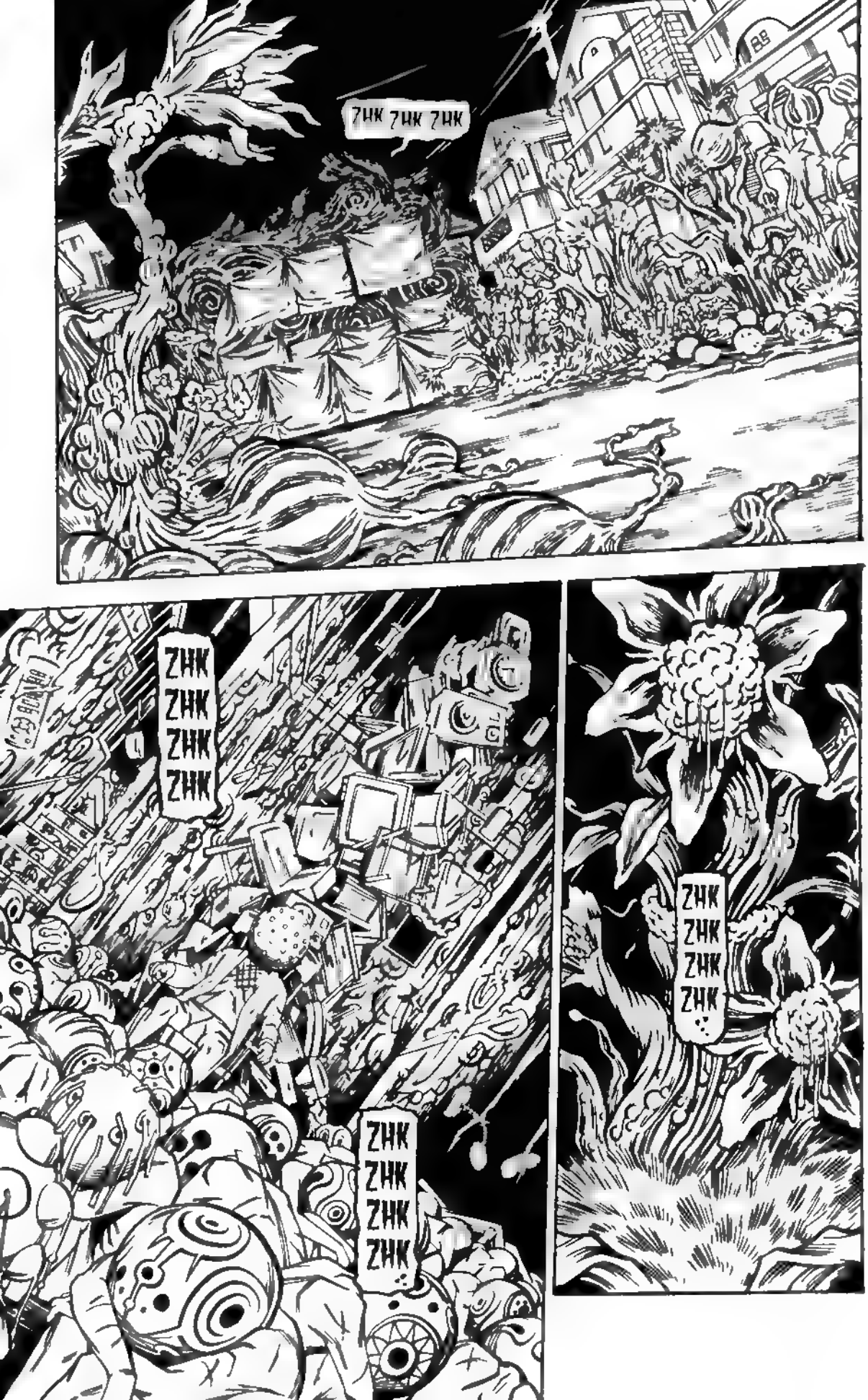
...
You can go too.
Onoda.


...th-th-then I haven't achieved anything so far.
I-if you can't call a case "solved" unless you understand everything...
A-a-as a detective, I a-at least want to understand...


I t-tracked down the blindfolded man at my own expense...
A-a-and I witnessed how his murderous mind crossed time and space to kill Miss Sayuri...
...w-with my own eyes...

...
It's *stifling* in here.
Go away!

...when something gets in my way.
Because it pisses me off...
That's all.
W-w-why are you so hung-up about this case?
S-S-Sergeant Yokoi...
Huh?
Onoda.
Hmph...
P-p-please don't get in *my* way!
T-t-then the same goes for you, Sergeant Yokoi!
Water.


ZHK ZHK ZHK
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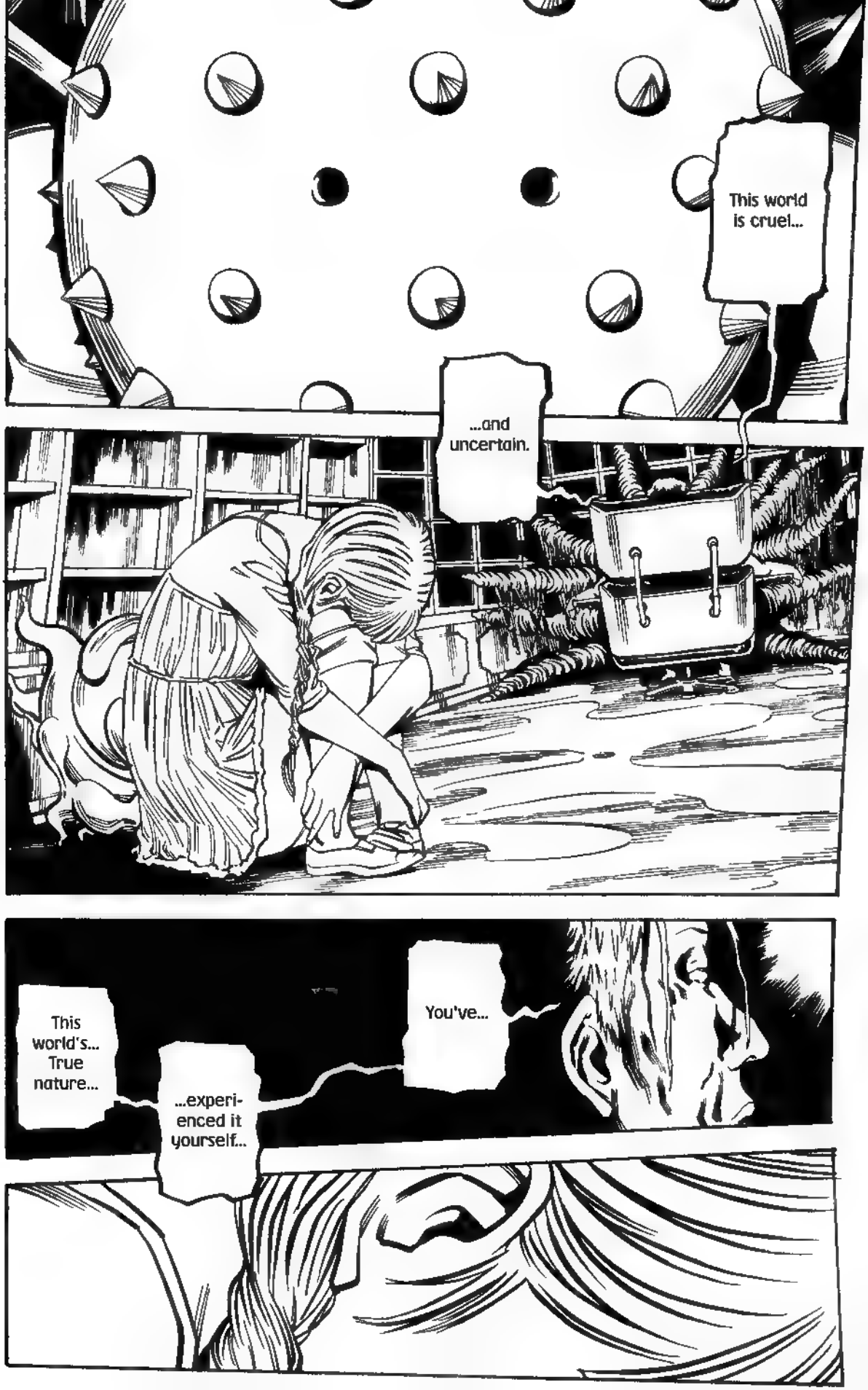
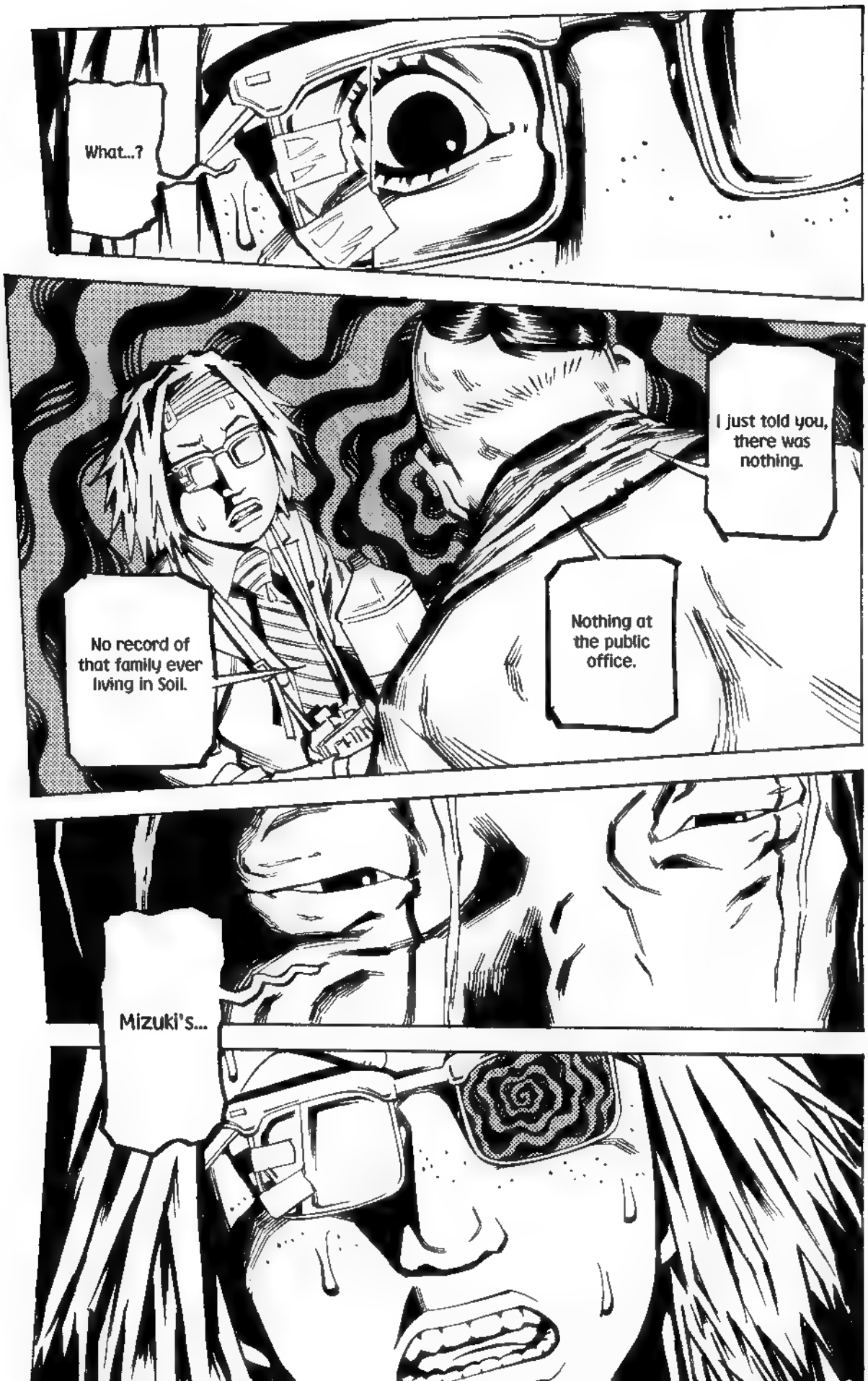
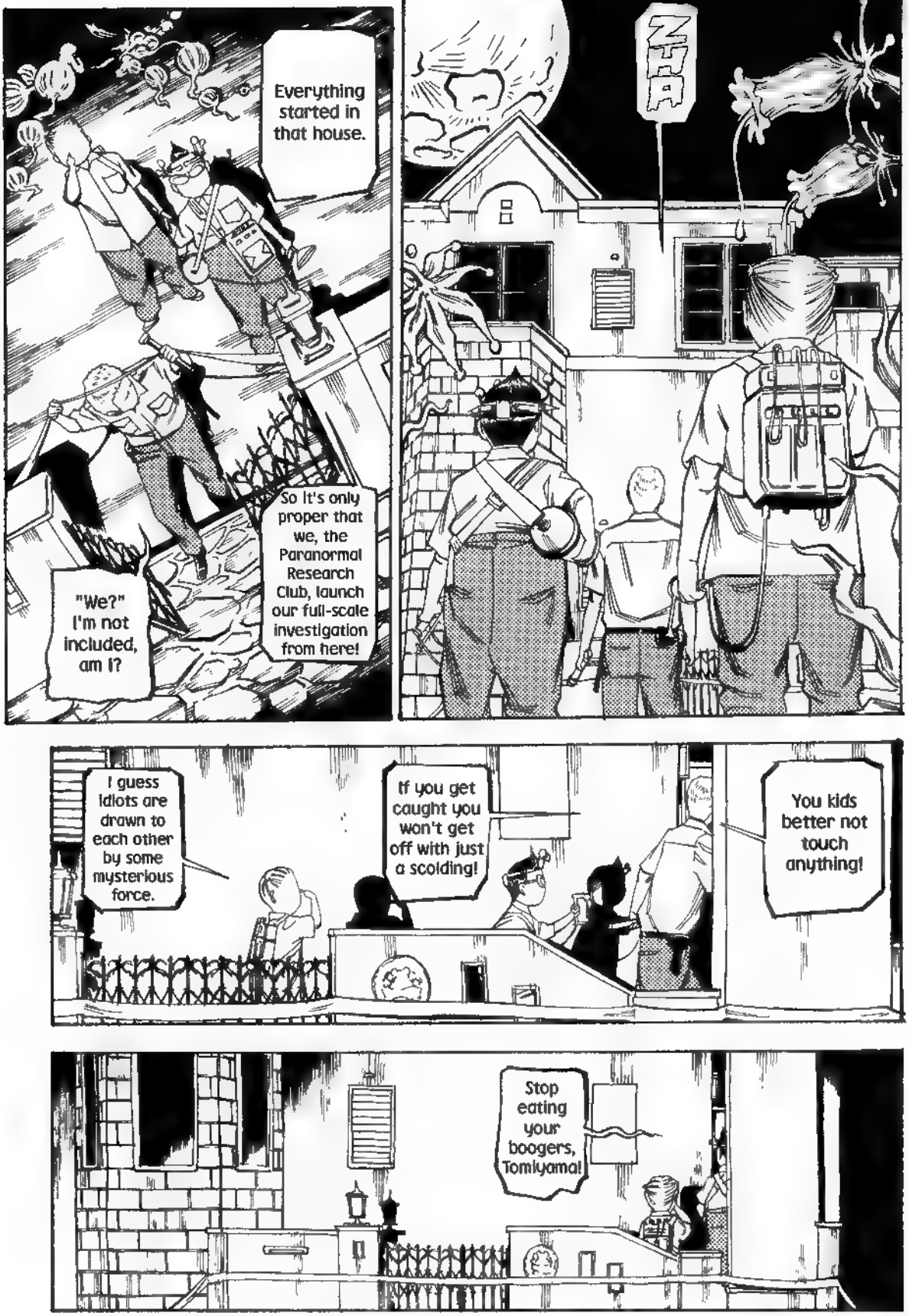

This world is cruel...
...and uncertain.
You've...
This world's... True nature...
...experienced it yourself...

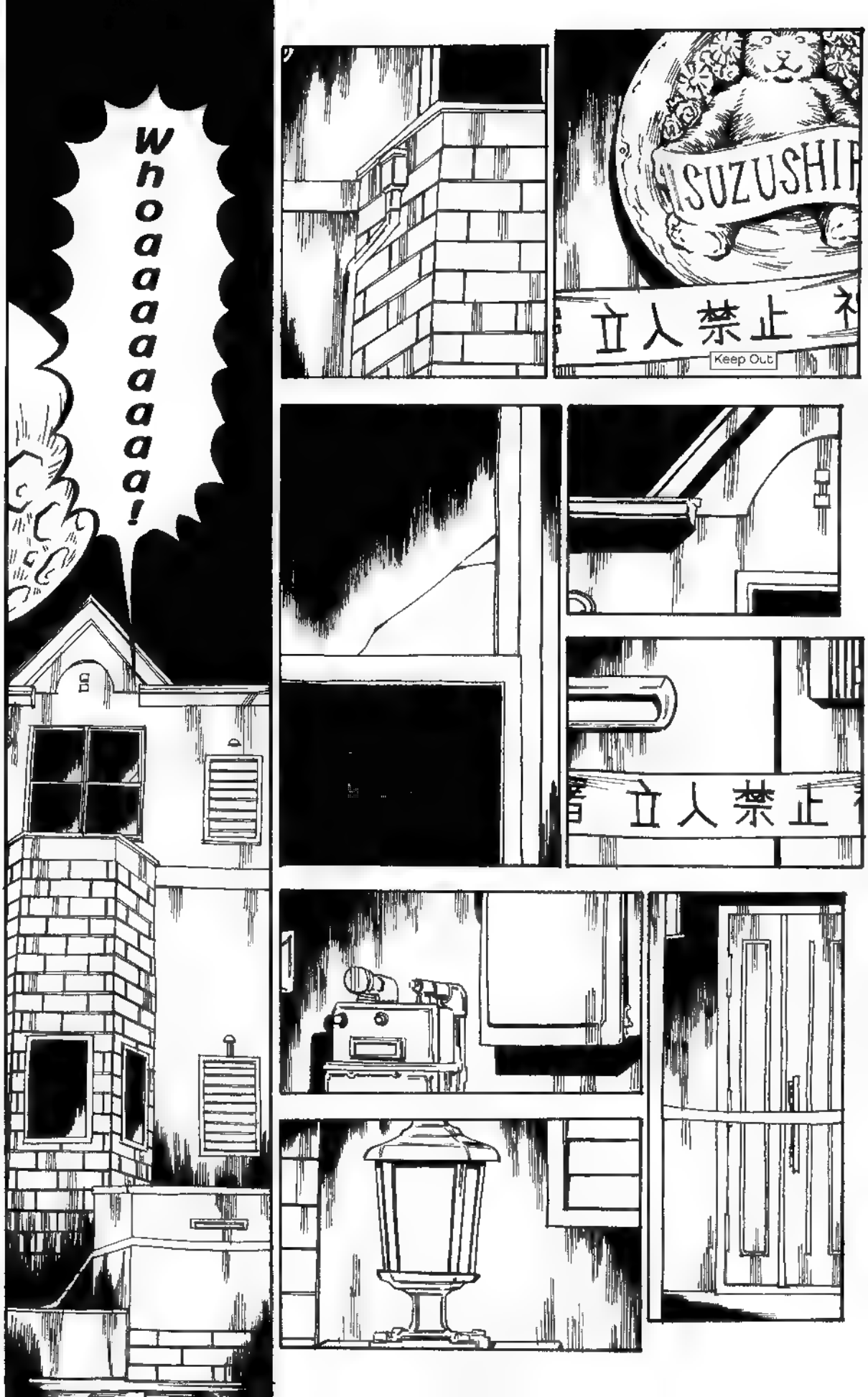
I realized something when I watched this video.
The core of this case doesn't revolve around the Suzushiro family...
It's the family itself!
Th-the Suzushiro family itself...?

The big question is *who* those people really are...
I saw her...
I saw Mizuki...
I really did...!
Once I started investigating...
...I got stuck, just as I'd expected.
That's when...
...I understood...
...everything.


What...?
I just told you, there was nothing.
Nothing at the public office.
No record of that family ever living in Soil.
Mizuki's...

...a "foreign organism."


Everything started in that house.
So it's only proper that we, the Paranormal Research Club, launch our full-scale investigation from here!
"We?" I'm not included, am I?
ZHA
I guess idiots are drawn to each other by some mysterious force.
If you get caught you won't get off with just a scolding!
You kids better not touch anything!
Stop eating your boogers, Tomiyama!

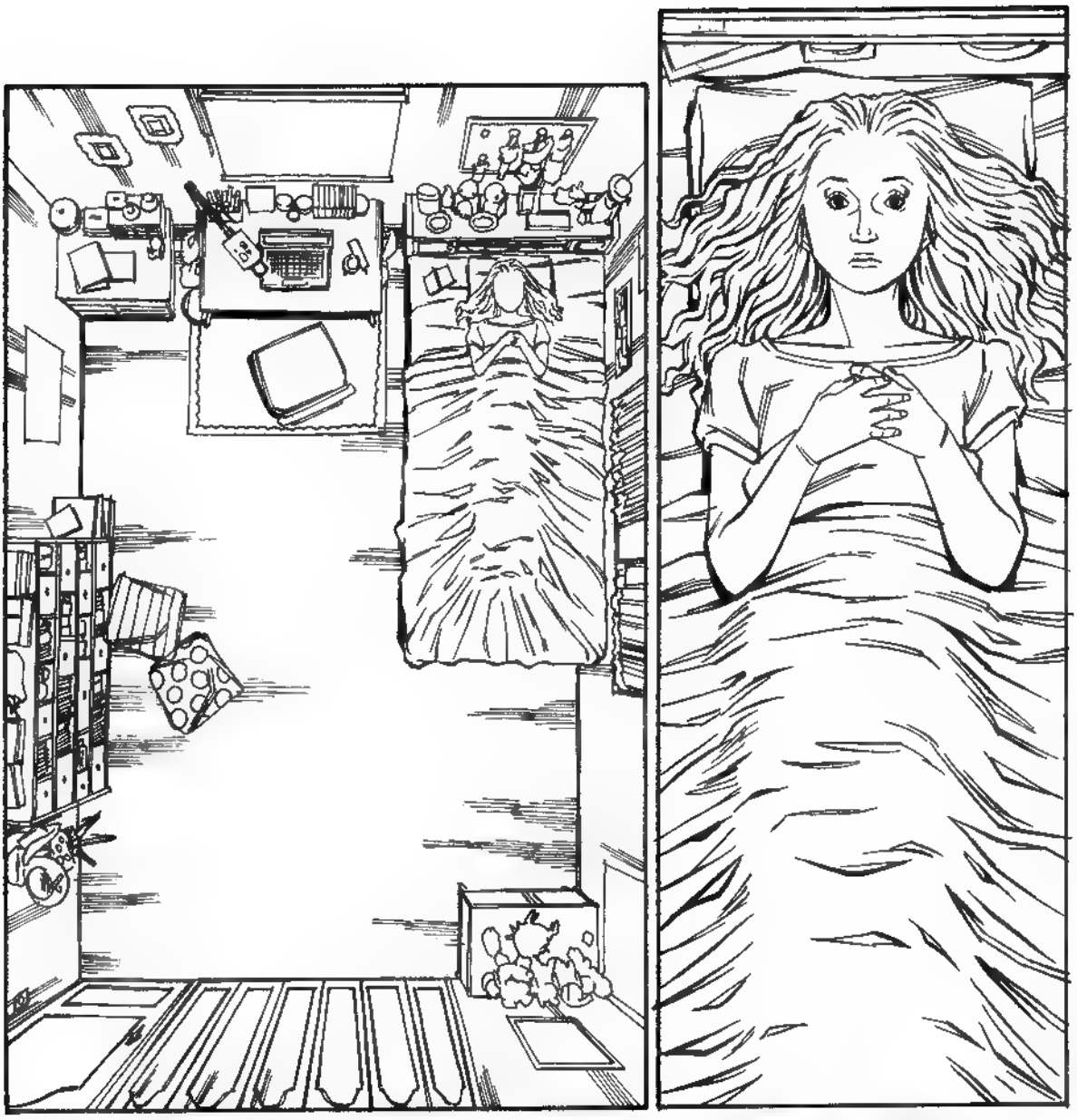

Whoaaaaaaaa!
SUZUSHI
立入禁止
Keep Out
立入禁止

SOIL

Block 2-21 [End]

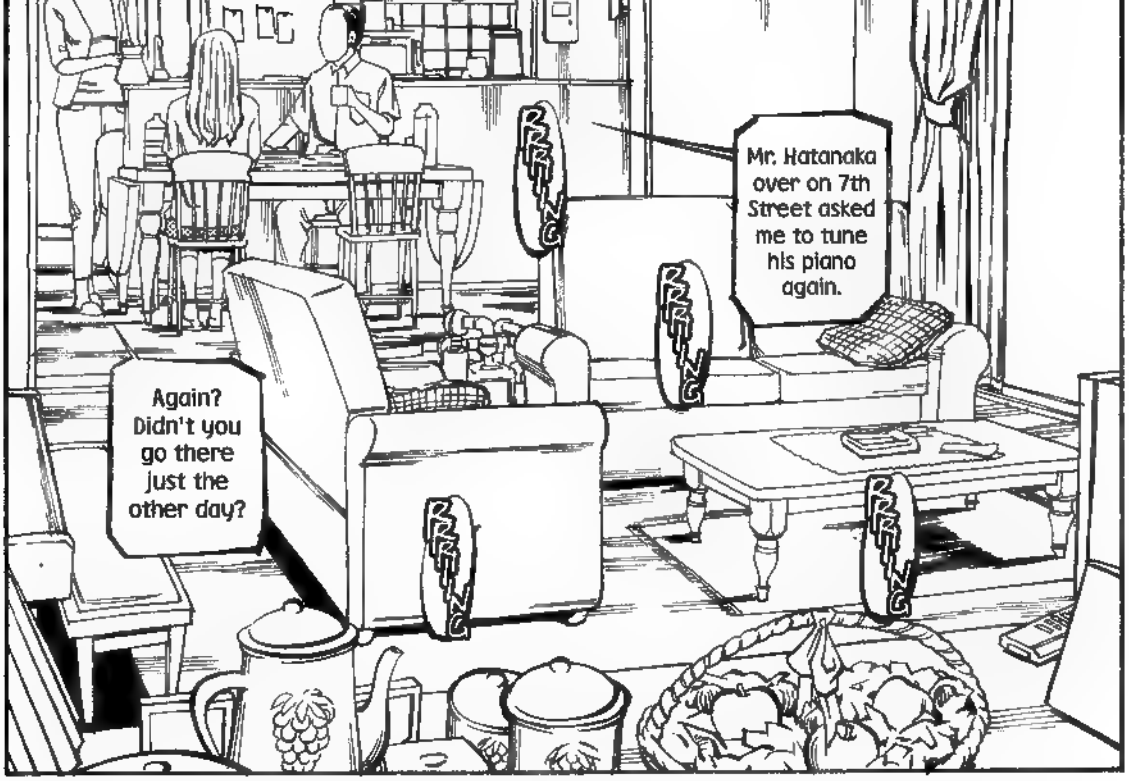
SOIL

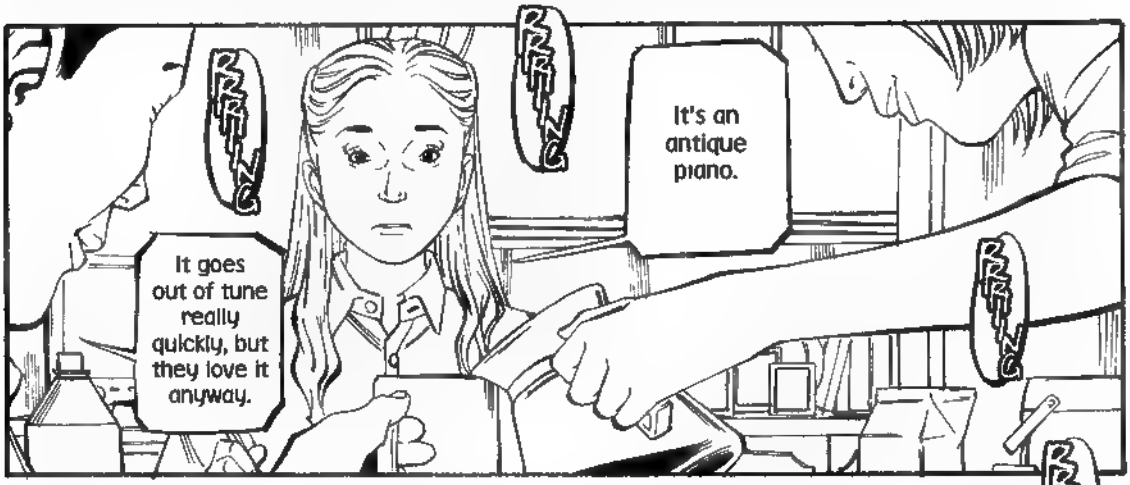
Block 2-22 [Mizuki]

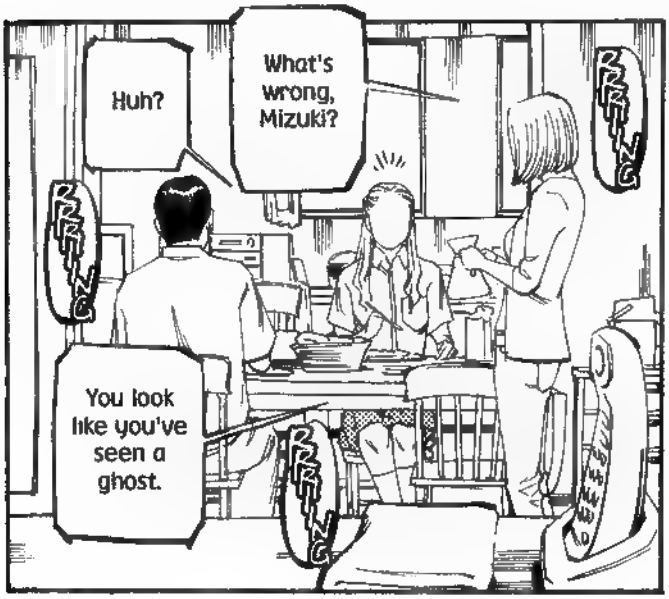


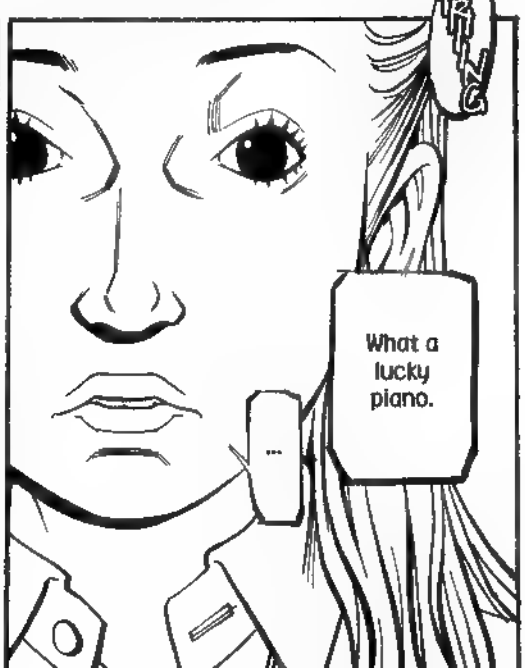
BLOCK 2-22

[Mizuki]

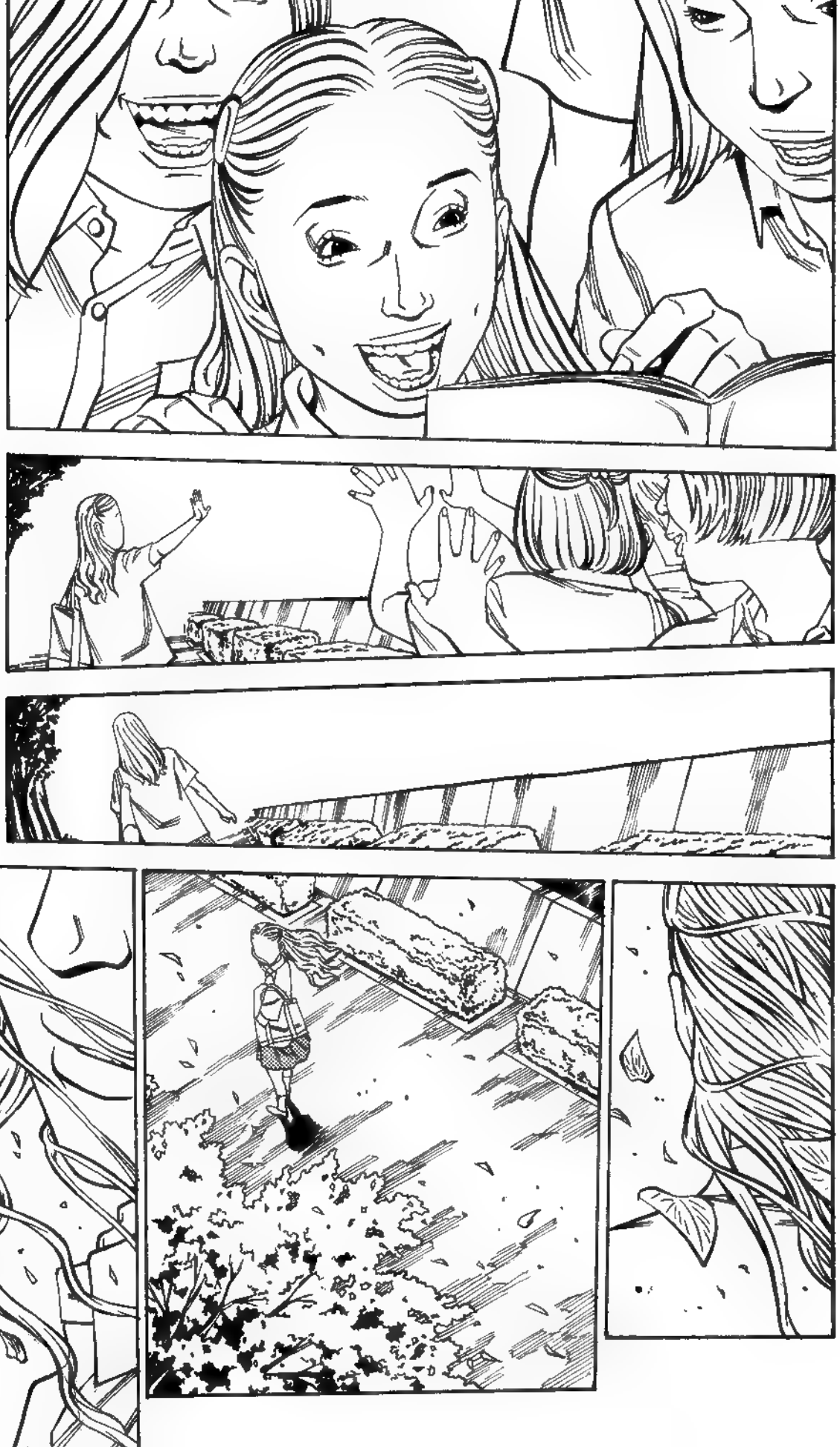

Mr. Hatanaka over on 7th Street asked me to tune his piano again.
Again? Didn't you go there just the other day?
BRRING

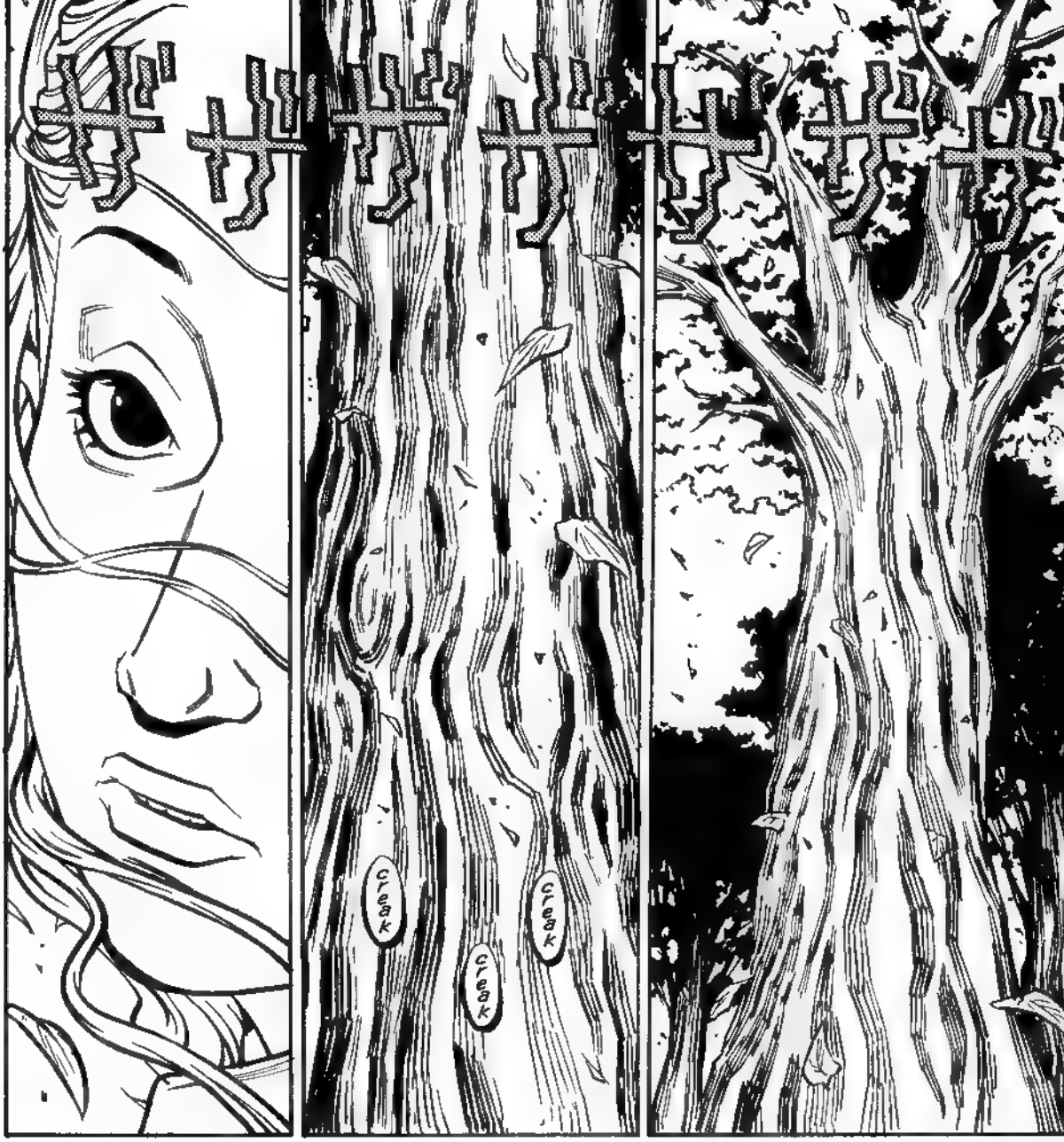

It's an antique piano.
It goes out of tune really quickly, but they love it anyway.
BRRING


Huh?
What's wrong, Mizuki?
You look like you've seen a ghost.
BRRING

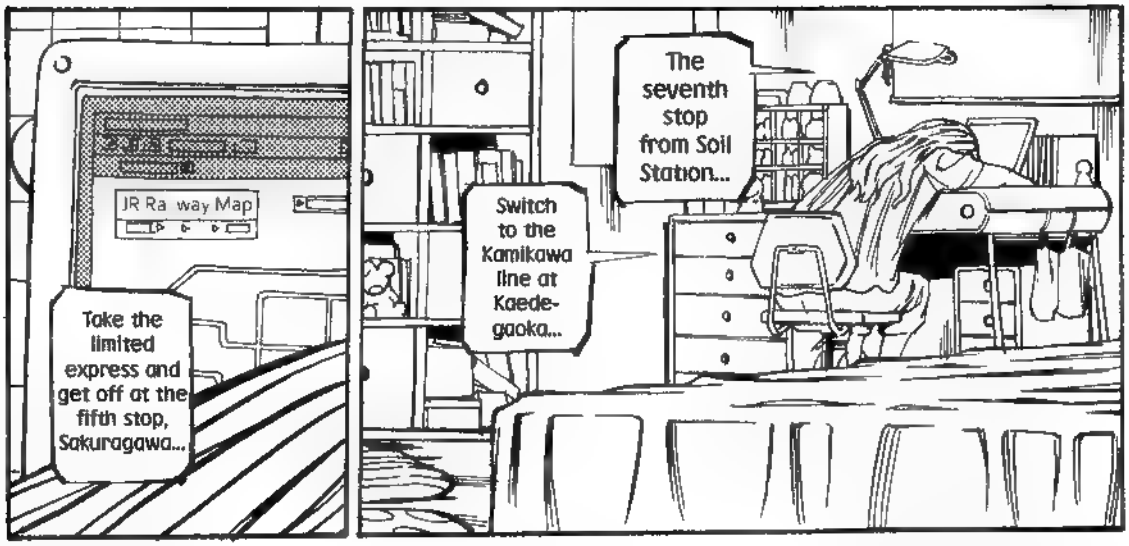

What a lucky piano.
...
BRRING

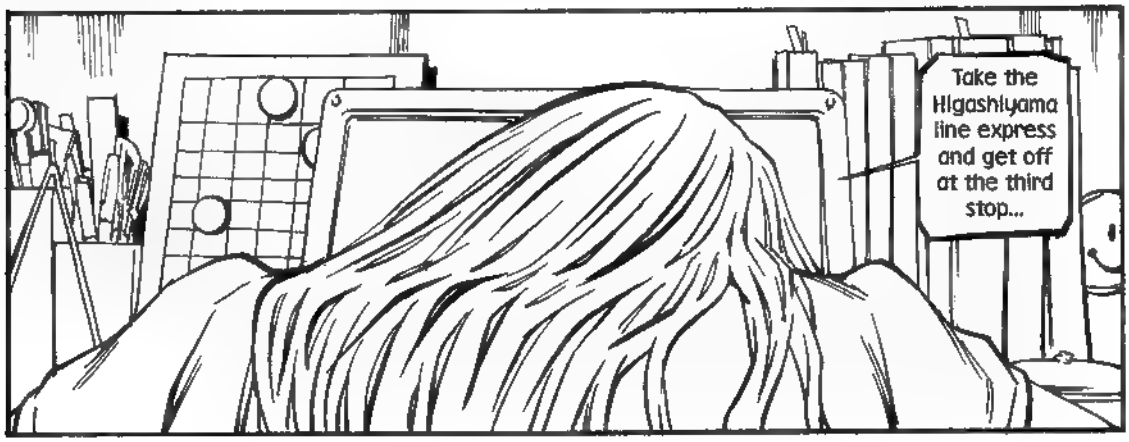
See, I knew you were half asleep.
No, I was studying for today's math lesson.
Ahaha-haha!
Haha-haha!
RRING
RRING
RRING
RRING
RRING
Don't tell me you're still half asleep.
You stayed up late surfing the Internet again, didn't you?
Yeah. See you later!
Have you got every-thing? Are you okay?




creak
creak
creak

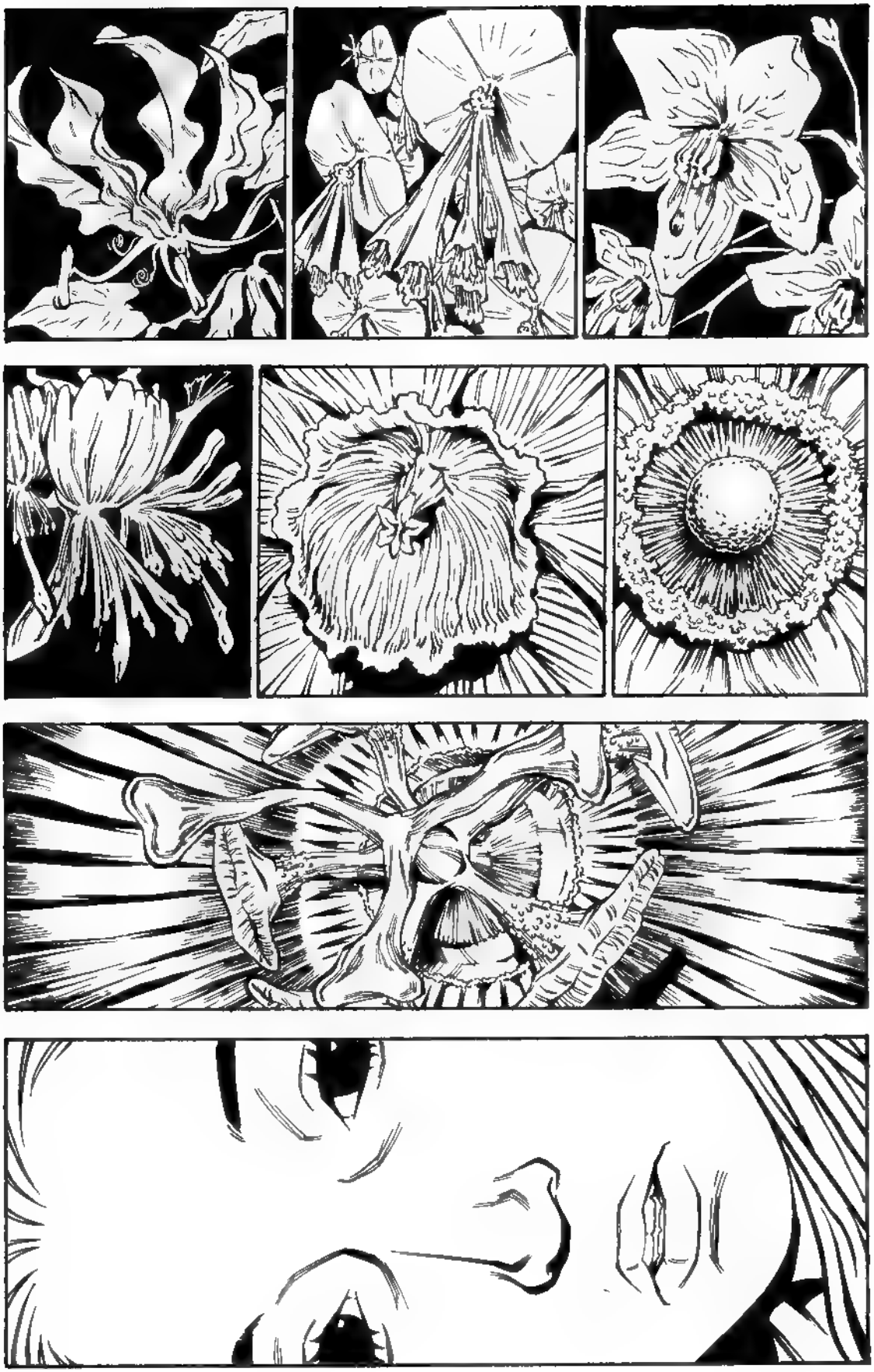
Die
Hate
Stupid
I'm home.
Welcome back.
Oh, hello, Mizuki.

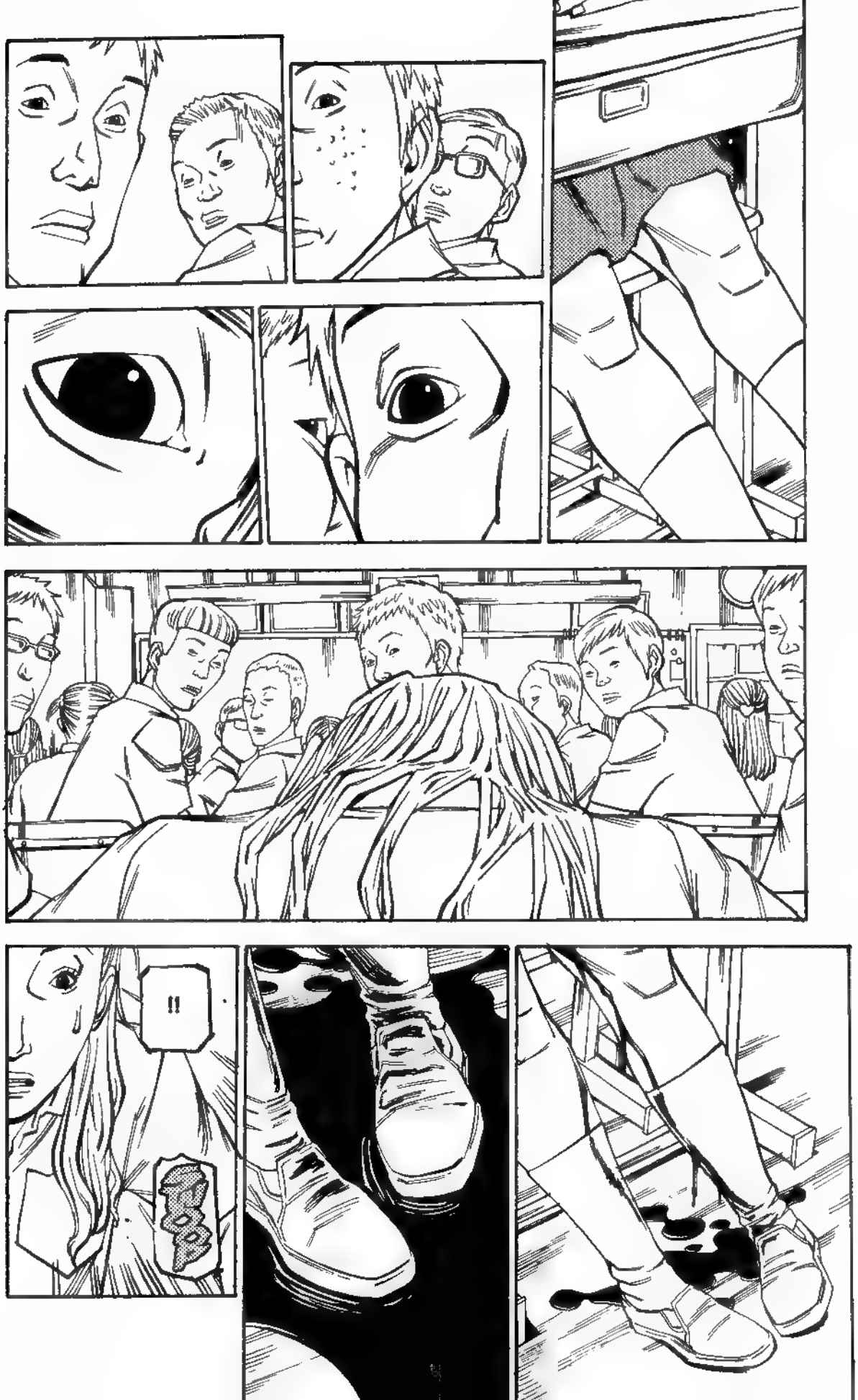

JR Ra way Map
Take the limited express and get off at the fifth stop, Sakuragawa...
Switch to the Kamikawa line at Kaede-gaoka...
The seventh stop from Soil Station...

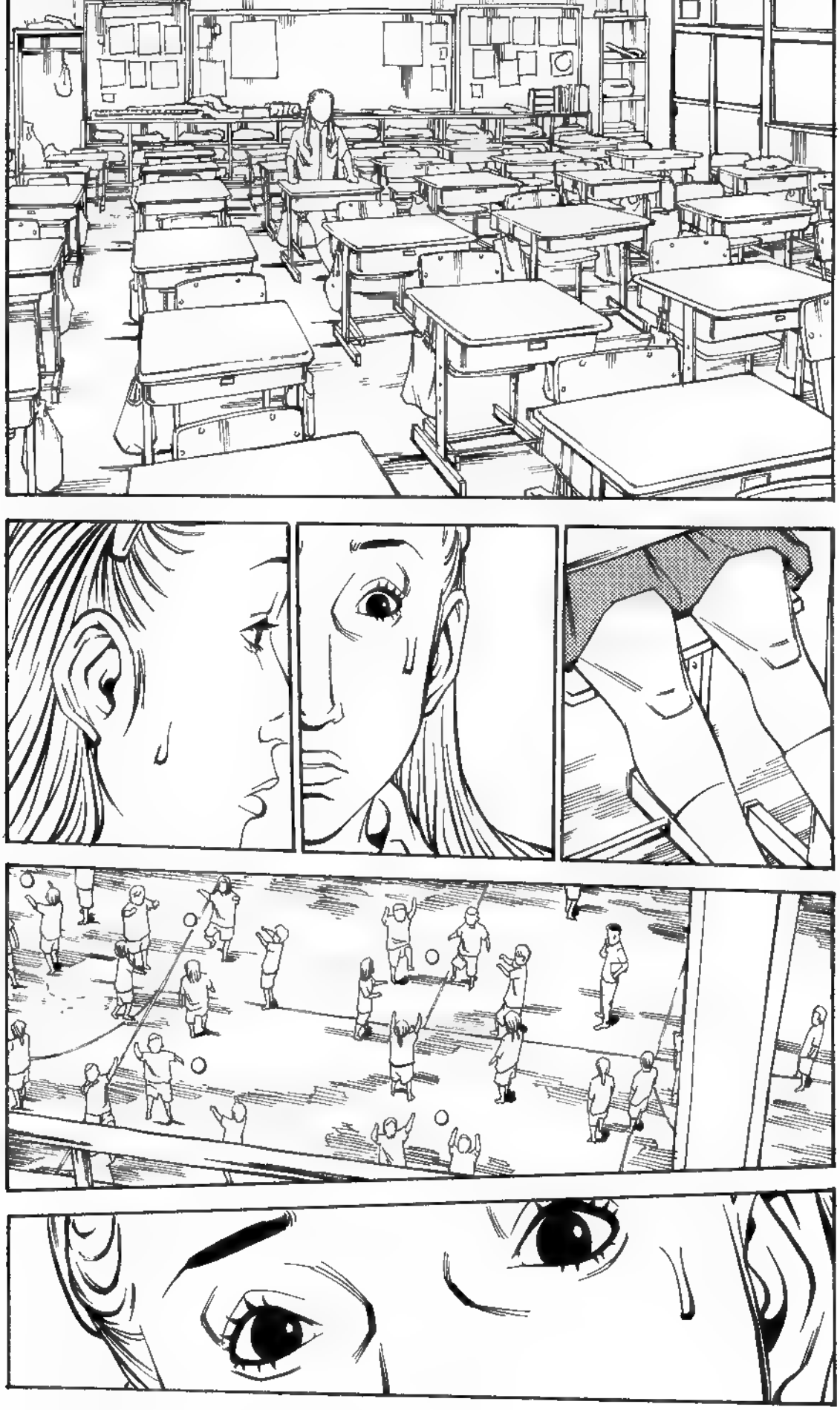

Take the Higashiyama line express and get off at the third stop...

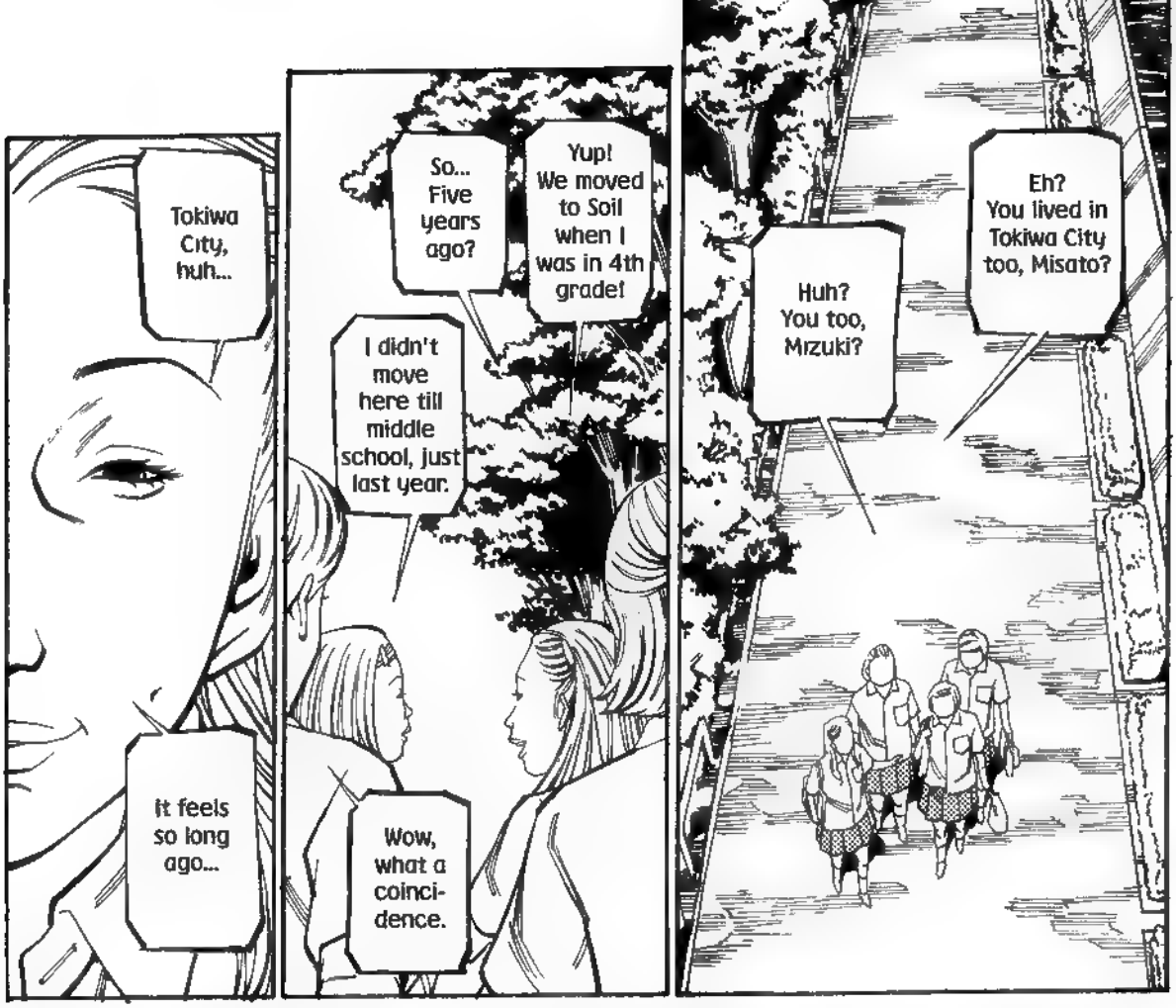
...
You don't know who you are?
When I wake up in the mornings, it just strikes me...
I've never had such thoughts before...
Who am I?
Is this me the *real* me? ...Things like that.
I know it's weird.
Not at all. That can happen to children around your age.
It's a natural doubt that forms part of the process of establishing a sense of self and settling on a personality.
It means your childhood is almost at an end.

Are you still getting sleepy all of a sudden?
Yeah... Sometimes...
Does that have anything to do with this?
But... Once I start thinking, I can't stop...
My mom and dad begin to look like strangers to me...
There's nothing strange about that either.
Self-identity crisis
SCRAZ
...but I don't think it's too serious.
Hmm, I don't know yet...
SCRAB
I'm sure they'll both settle down after a while.



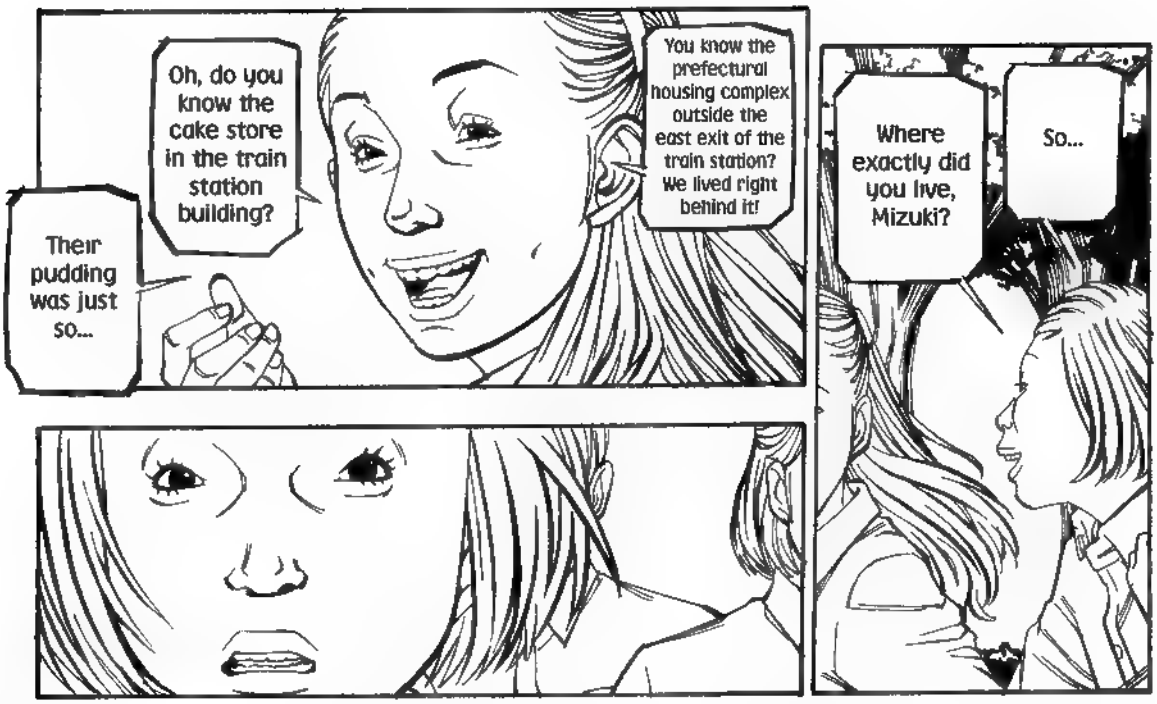

!!
BOB

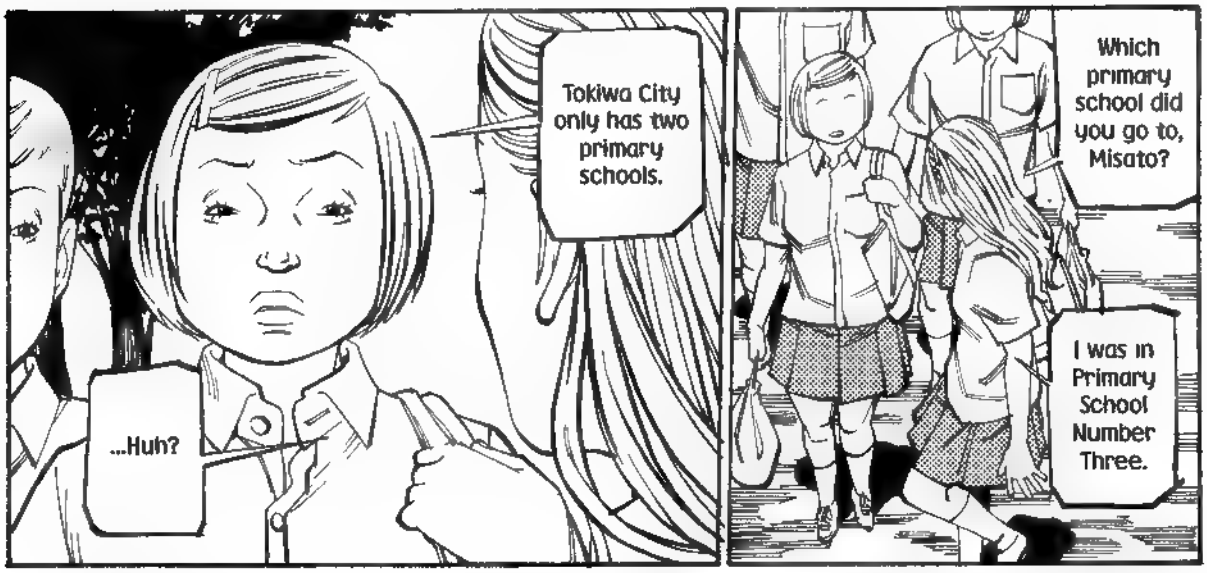



Tokiwa City, huh...
It feels so long ago...
So... Five years ago?
Yup! We moved to Soil when I was in 4th grade!
I didn't move here till middle school, just last year.
Wow, what a coincidence.
Eh? You lived in Tokiwa City too, Misato?
Huh? You too, Mizuki?

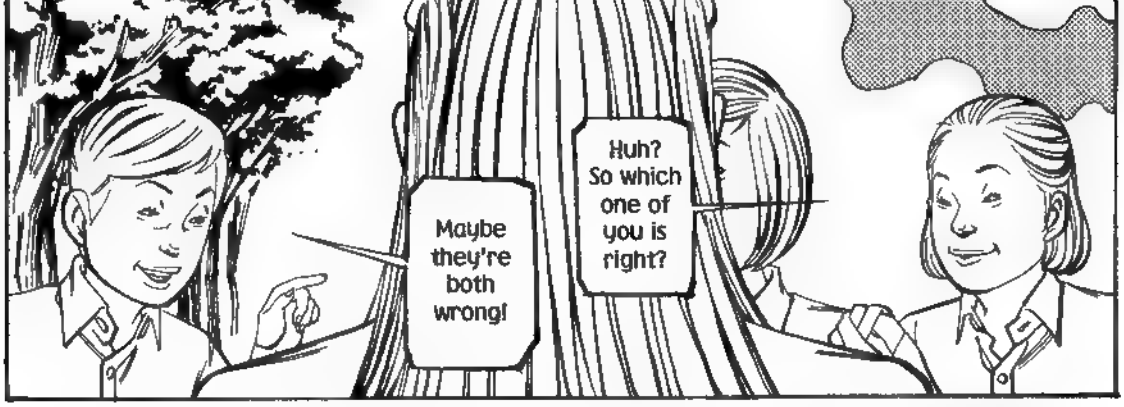
I've got nothing but good memories of them.
My friends, my neighbors...
School, the park, all the different stores...

Aha-haha!
Haha-ha!
All that ends when you get to middle school.
Of course you do, you were a kid.

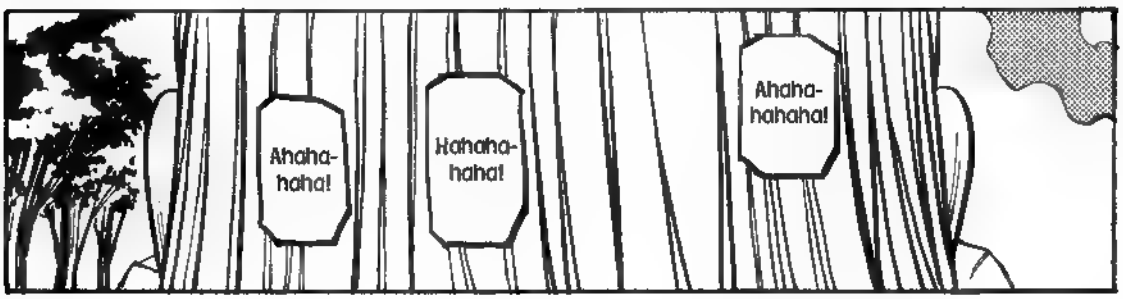

Their pudding was just so...
Oh, do you know the cake store in the train station building?
You know the prefectural housing complex outside the east exit of the train station? We lived right behind it!
So...
Where exactly did you live, Mizuki?


...Huh?
Tokiwa City only has two primary schools.
Which primary school did you go to, Misato?
I was in Primary School Number Three.

...
It's not really a building either...
And the station only has a north exit and a south exit.

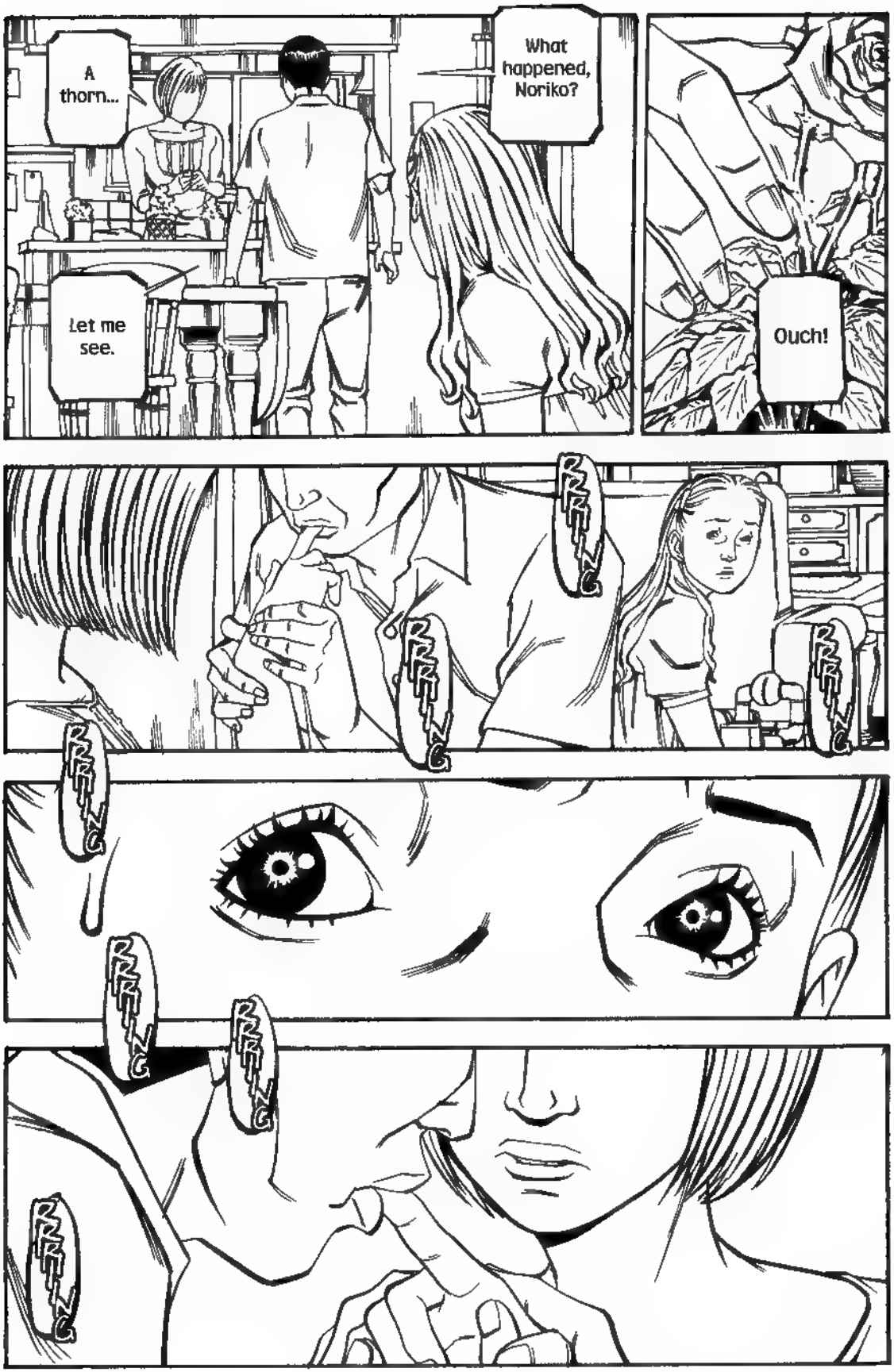

Maybe they're both wrong!
Huh? So which one of you is right?

Ahaha-haha!
You sure? Maybe you're going senile already!
I was there until just recently!


Ahaha-haha!
Hahaha-haha!
Ahaha-hahaha!

ドンッ
ドンッ
ドンッ

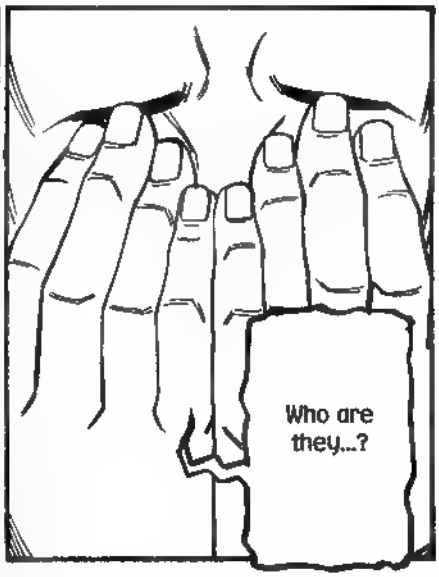
What's the matter? You look deep in thought.
RRRING
But...
Kanako gave it to me...
Have you found someone to look after it yet?
...
It's still something that came from outside.
I don't want any "foreign organisms" coming into our family.
"Foreign organisms" ...?


A thorn...
What happened, Noriko?
Let me see.
Ouch!
RRING
RRING
RRING
RRING
RRING
RRING

The seventh stop from Soil Station...
Take the limited express and get off at the fifth stop, Sakura-gawa...
Switch to the Kamikawa line at Kaede-gaoka...
MMM
MMM
This is something that's happening inside your mind.
It's caused by your fear of growing up.
Do you understand, Mizuki?

My dad... And my mom...
...
I'm so scared...
But... I really don't know who I am anymore...

It shows that you're getting out of their care and becoming a human being in your own right.
Feeling uneasy about your parents is also part of growing up.

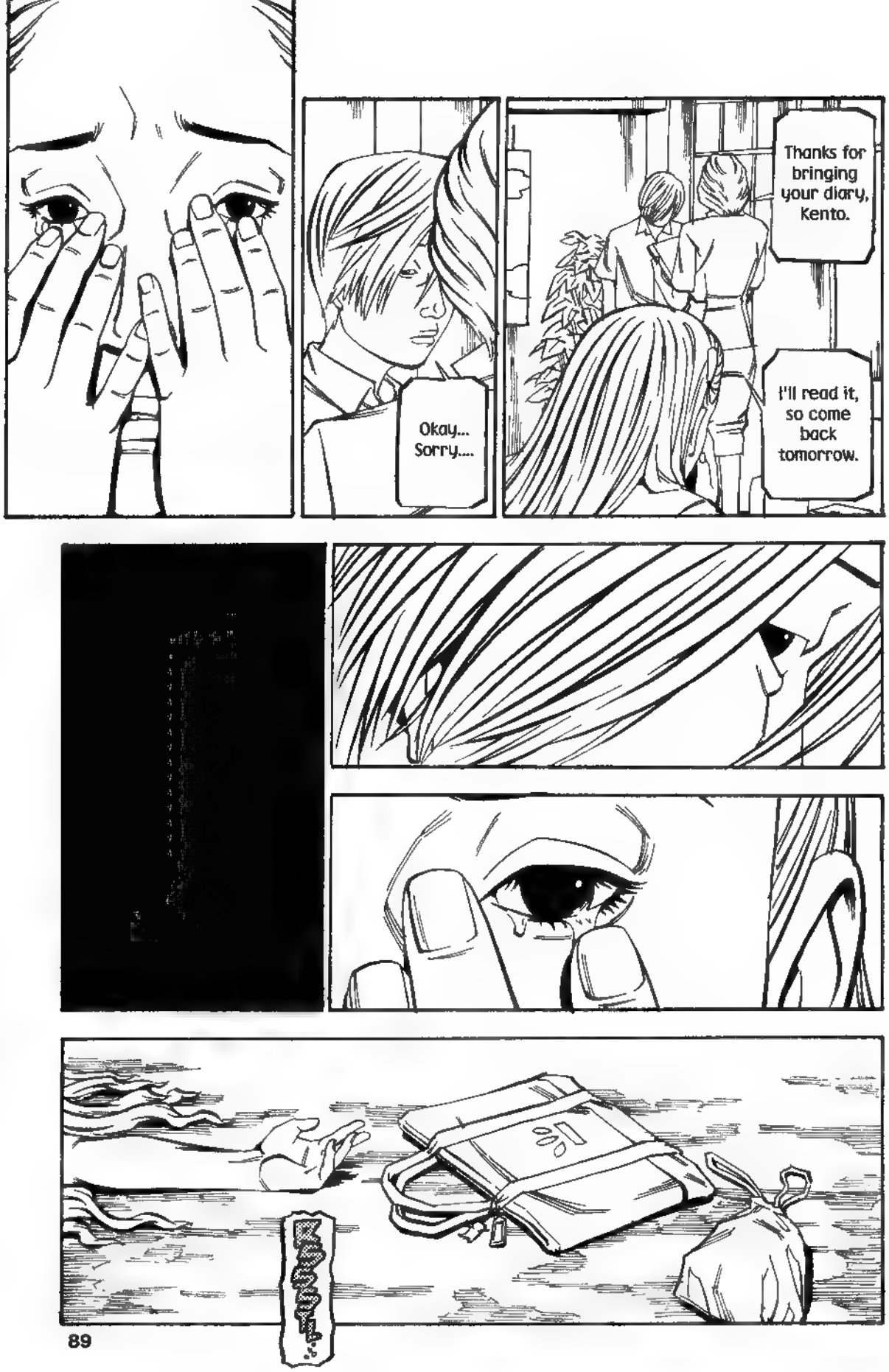

Who are they...?

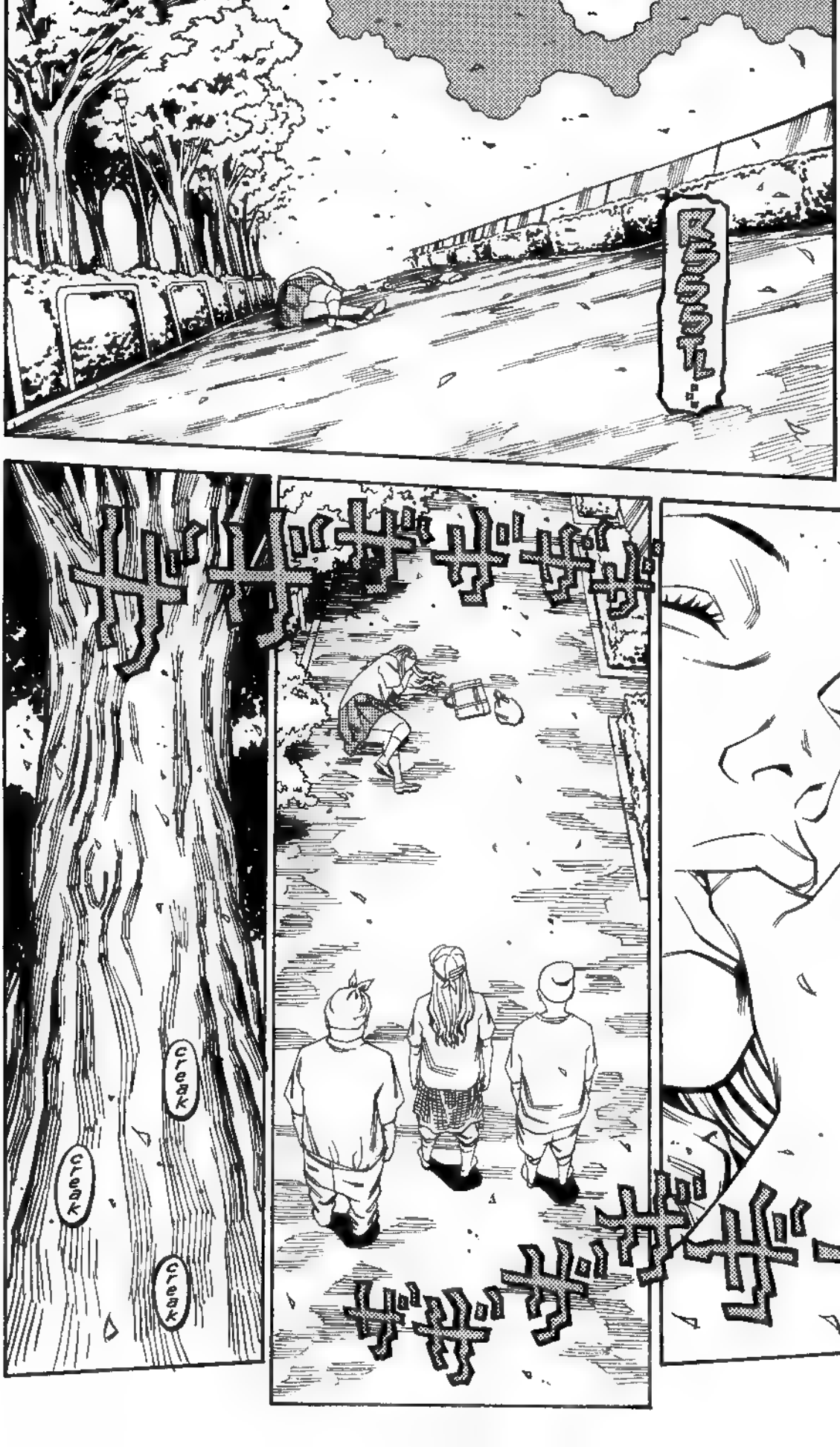
You'll see yourself changing with time.
Then you'll realize you didn't just appear in this world...
We'll look at them together as we talk.

Next time you're coming, bring your childhood pictures with you.
How about this, then?

...
They said the moving men made a mistake... And we lost them all...
The album... All the pictures from before we came to Soil...

If my memories are false...
Then where's the real me...?
But I can't even trust those...
All I have are memories...
SLIDE


Okay... Sorry....
Thanks for bringing your diary, Kento.
I'll read it, so come back tomorrow.
Kento...


RUMBLE
creak
creak
creak

SOIL

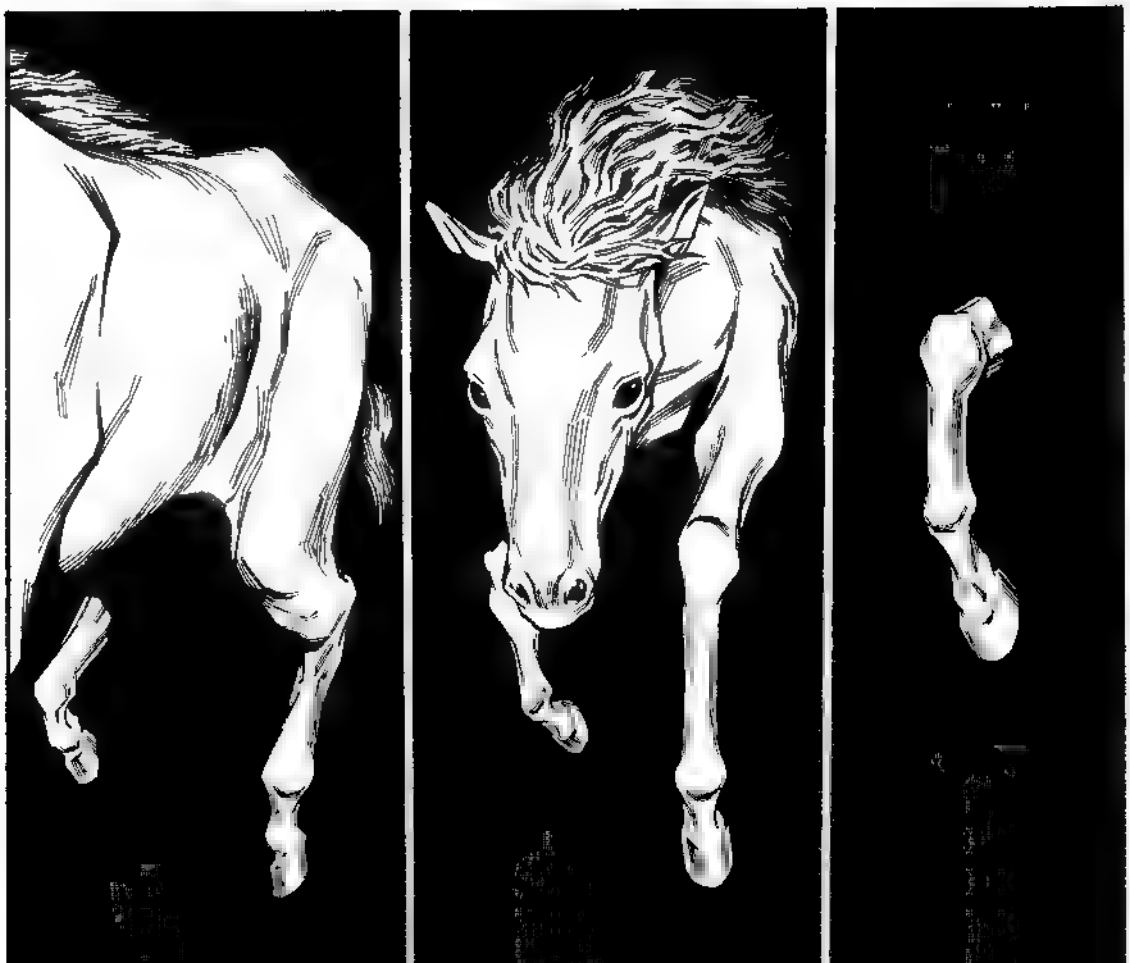
Block 2-22 [End]

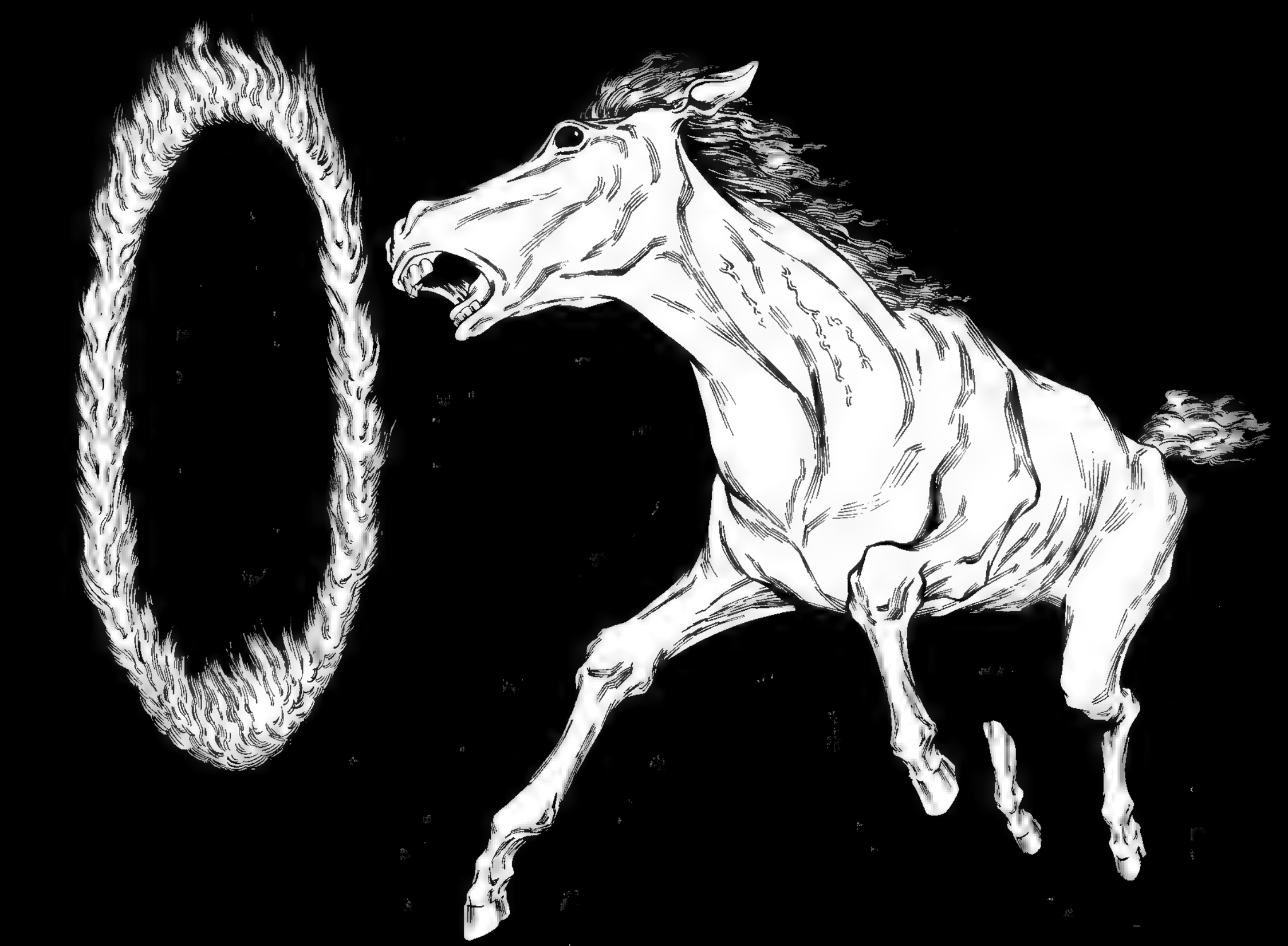
SOIL

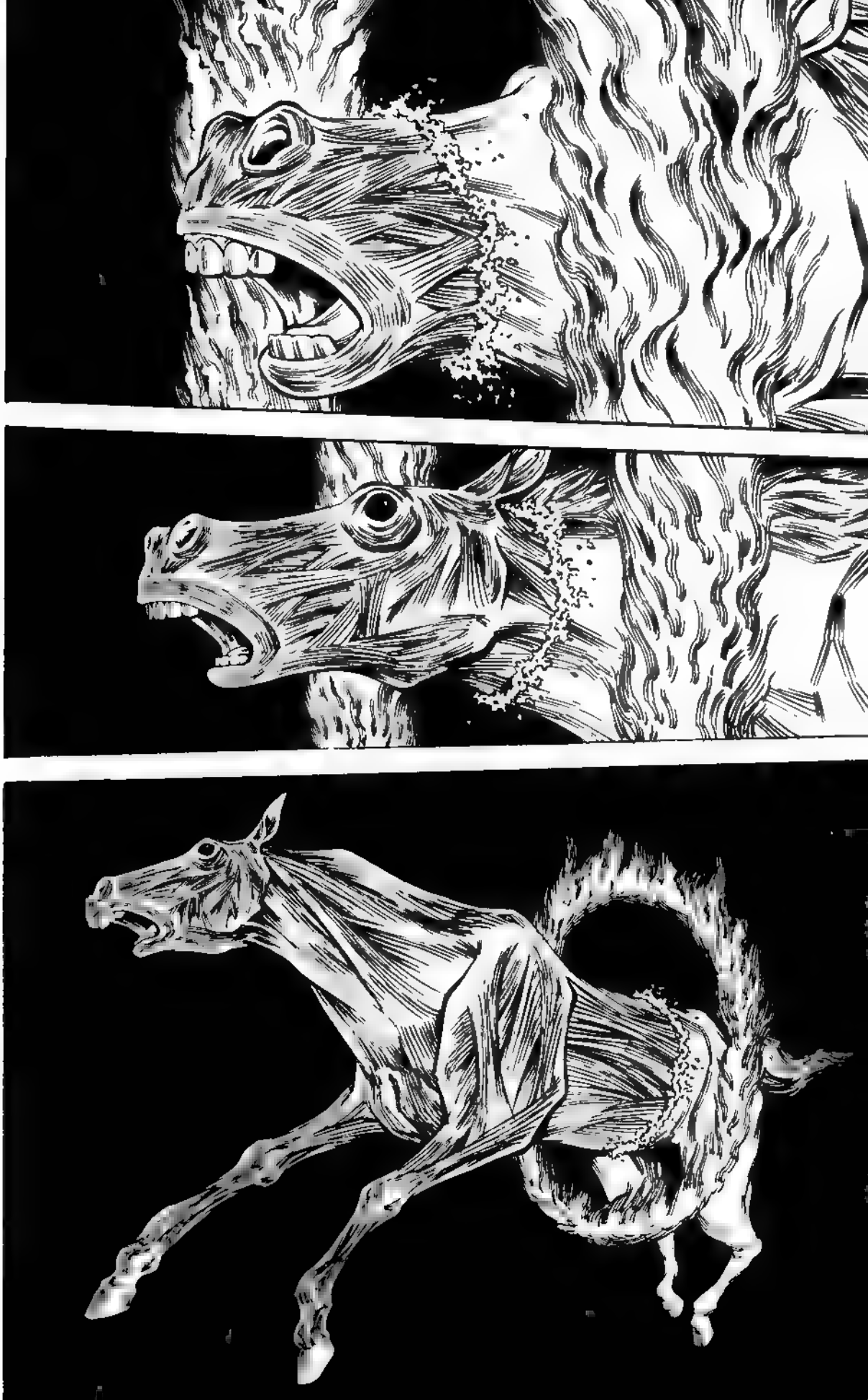
Block 2-23 [Suzushiro]

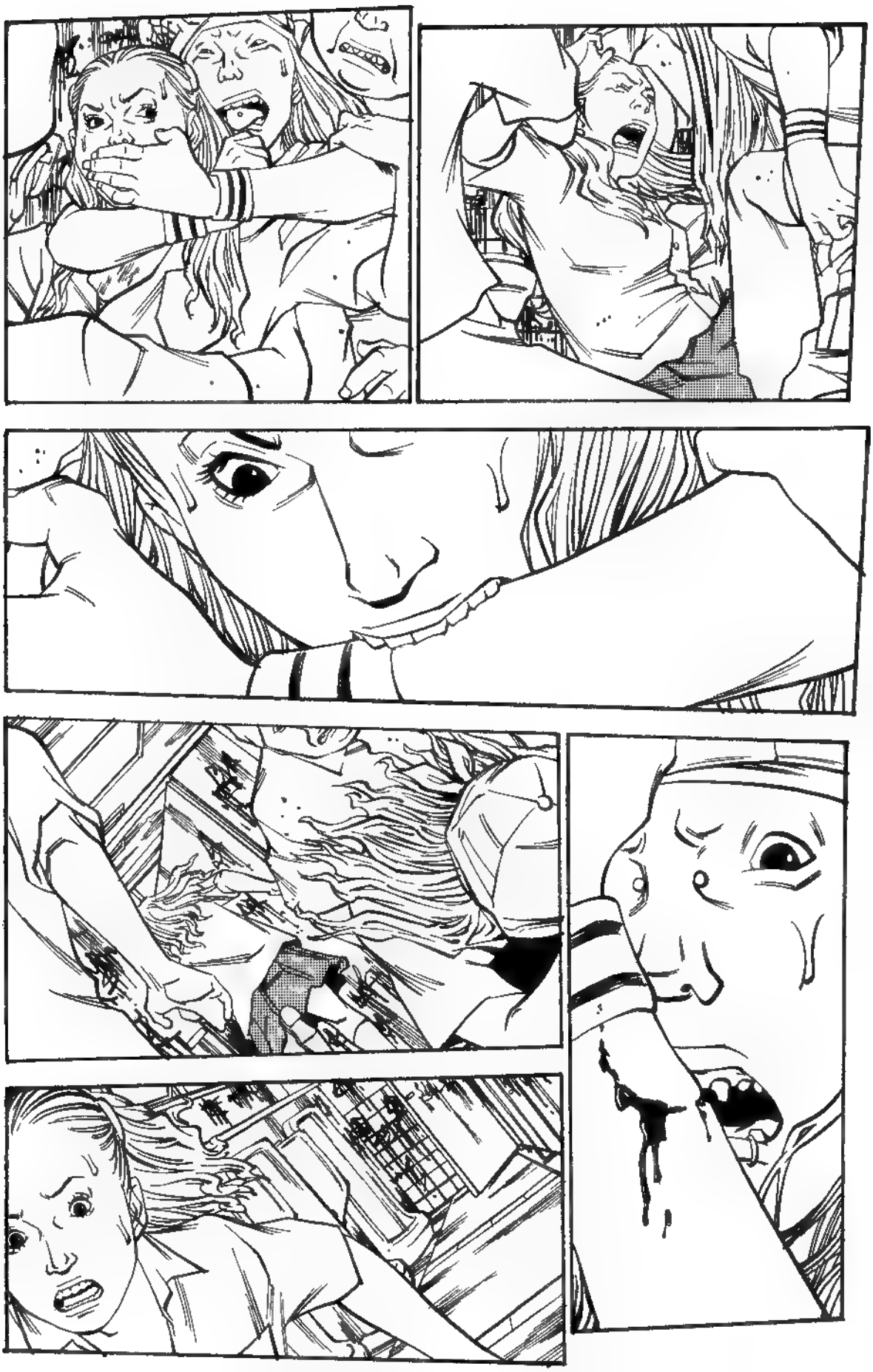
BLOCK 2-23

[Suzushiro]

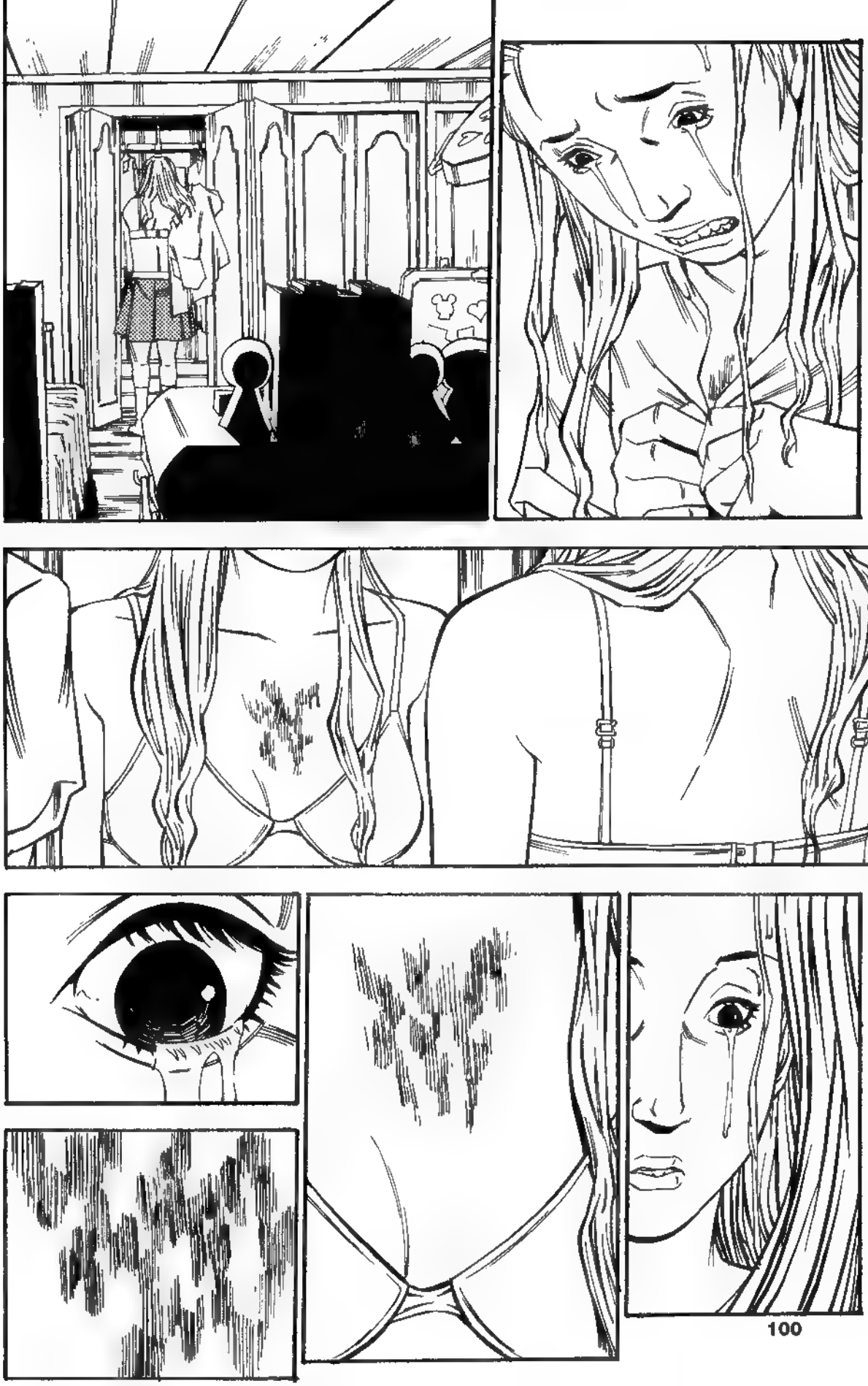


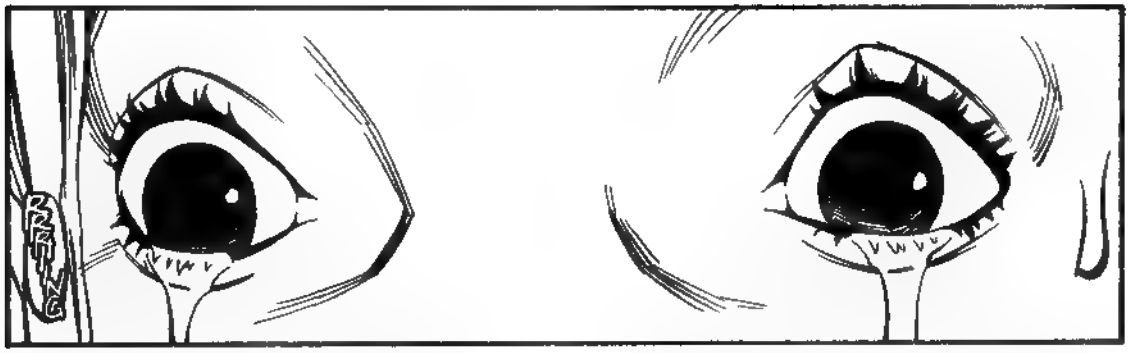




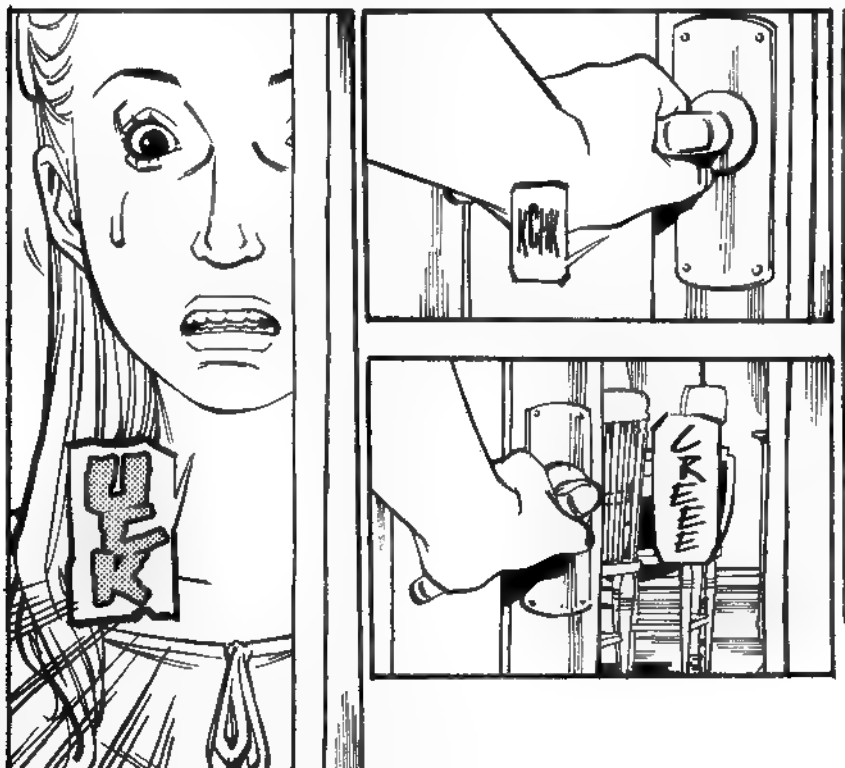


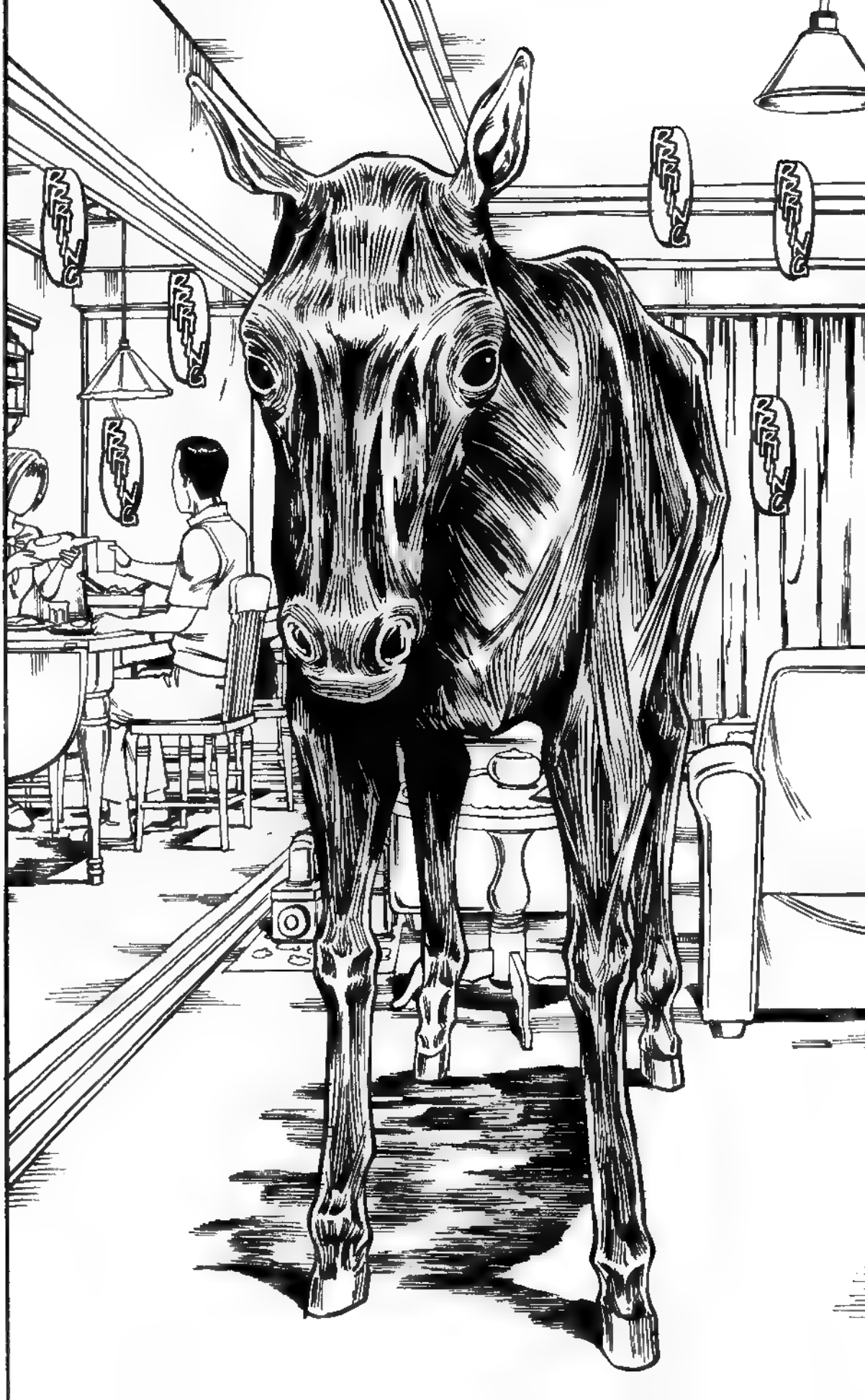
Rumble...
The seventh stop from Soil Station...
Switch to the Kami-kawa line...
...at Kaede-gaoka...
Take the limited express and get off at the fifth stop, Sakura-gawa...
From there, take the Higashi-yama line express and...
死
死
死
死
死
死
Death

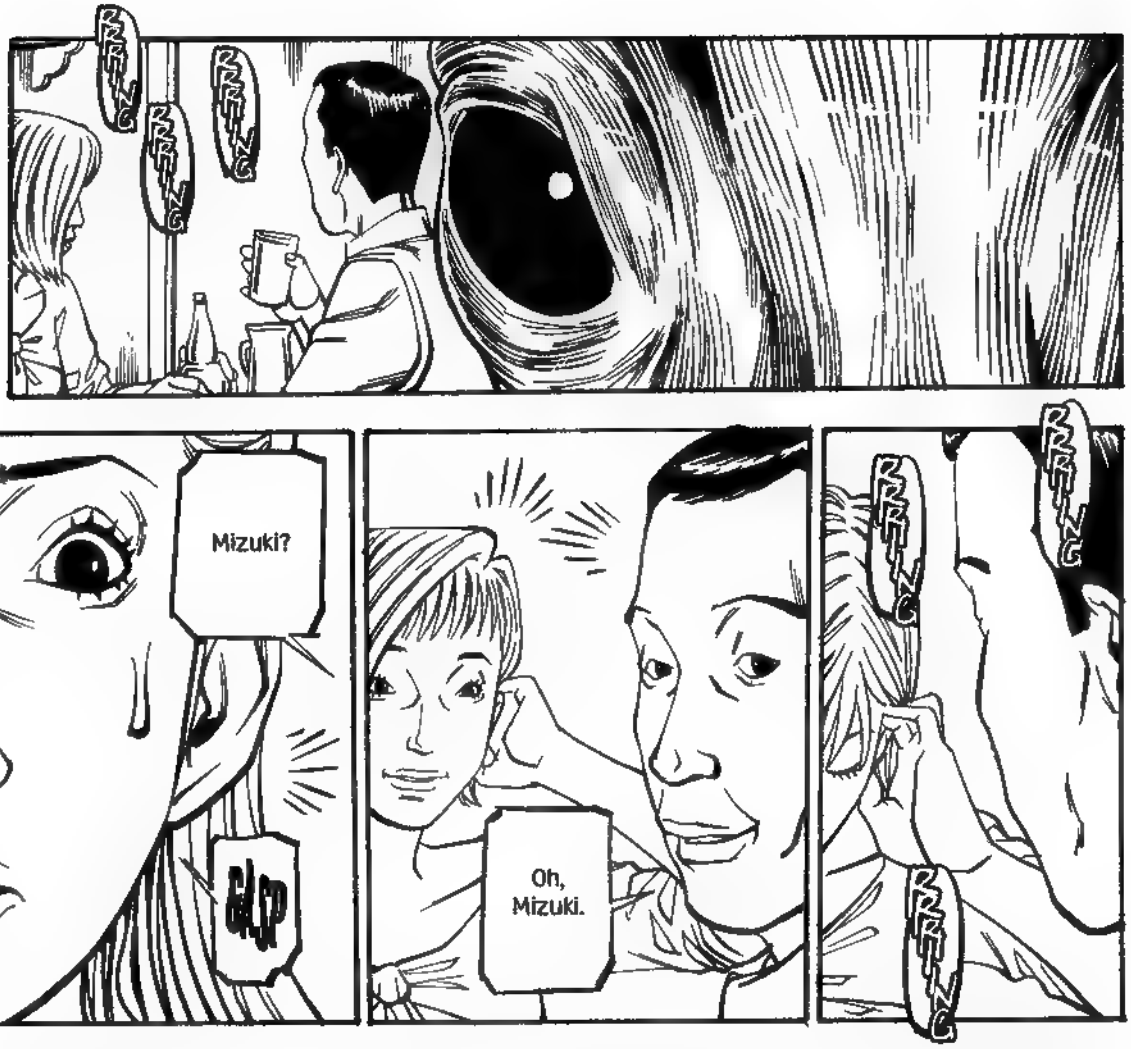


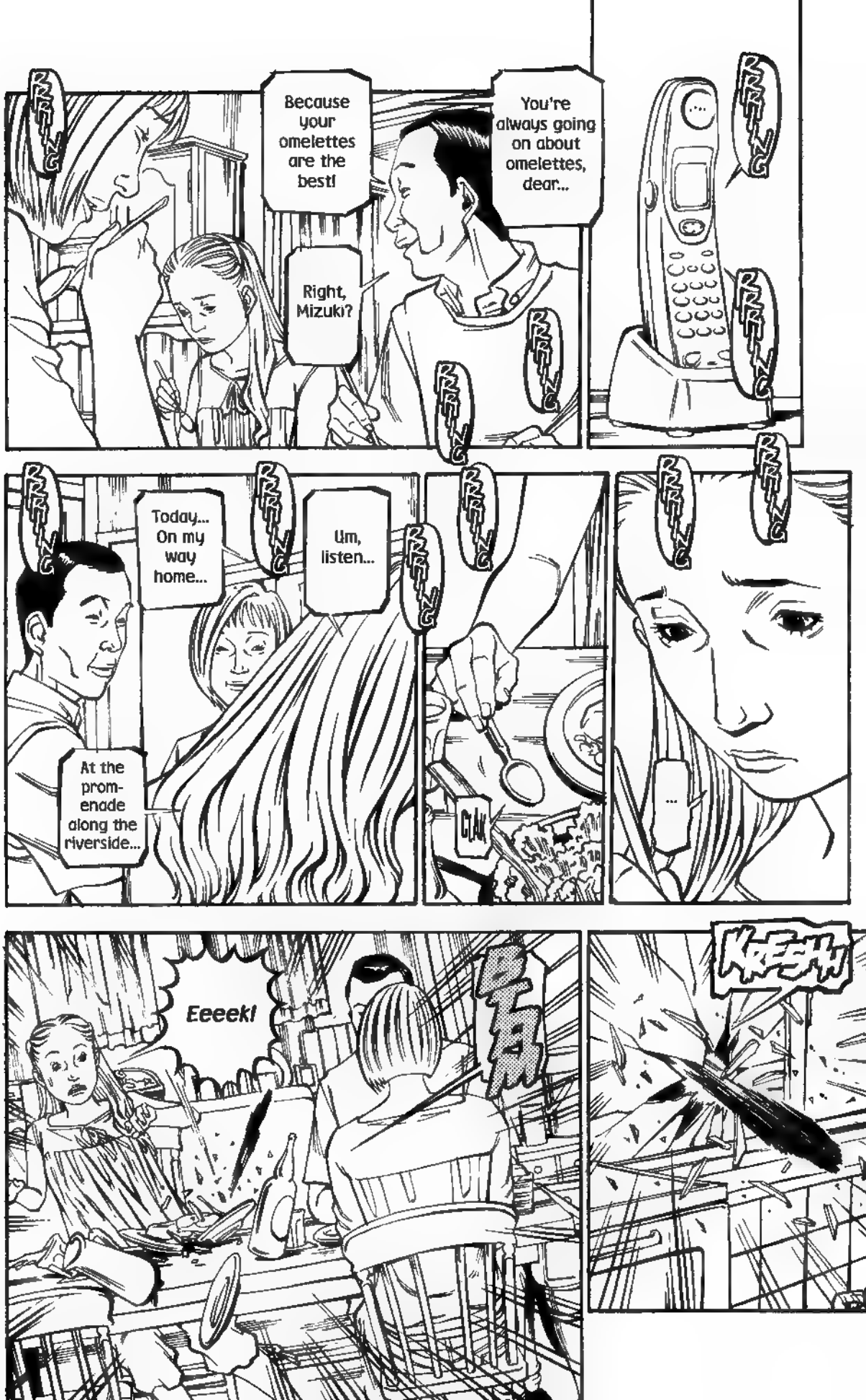

BRRNG

When this salvia blooms, you should give cuttings to all the neighbors.
BRRNG
BRRNG
BRRNG
Haha-haha!
Ahaha-haha!
BRRNG
BRRNG
BRRNG
BRRNG


HK
KCH
GREEEE
Good idea. I'm sure they'll love it.
BRRNG
BRRNG

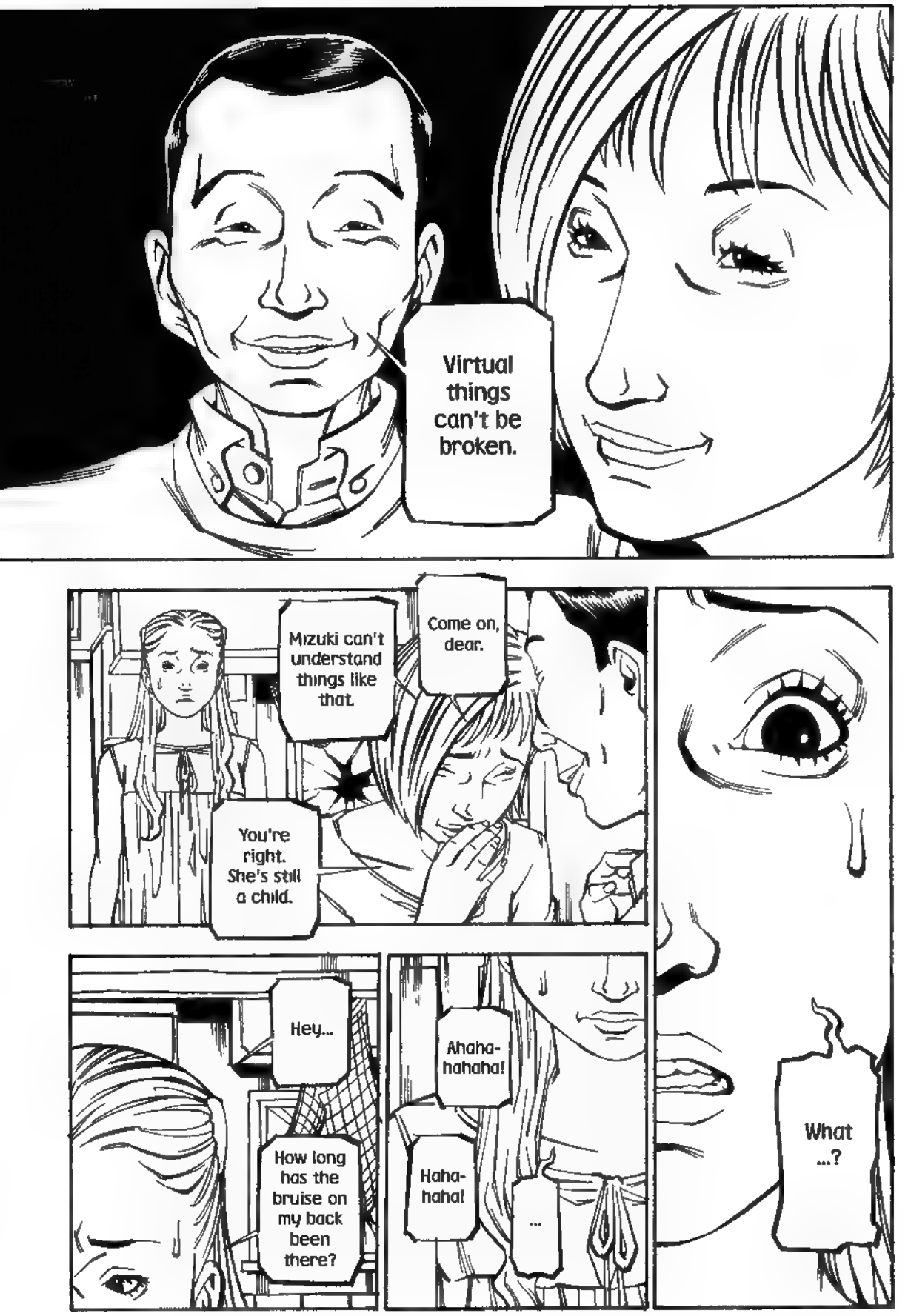

RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING


RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
Mizuki?
GULP
Oh, Mizuki.
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
Hurry up and take a seat.
Your omelette's getting cold.

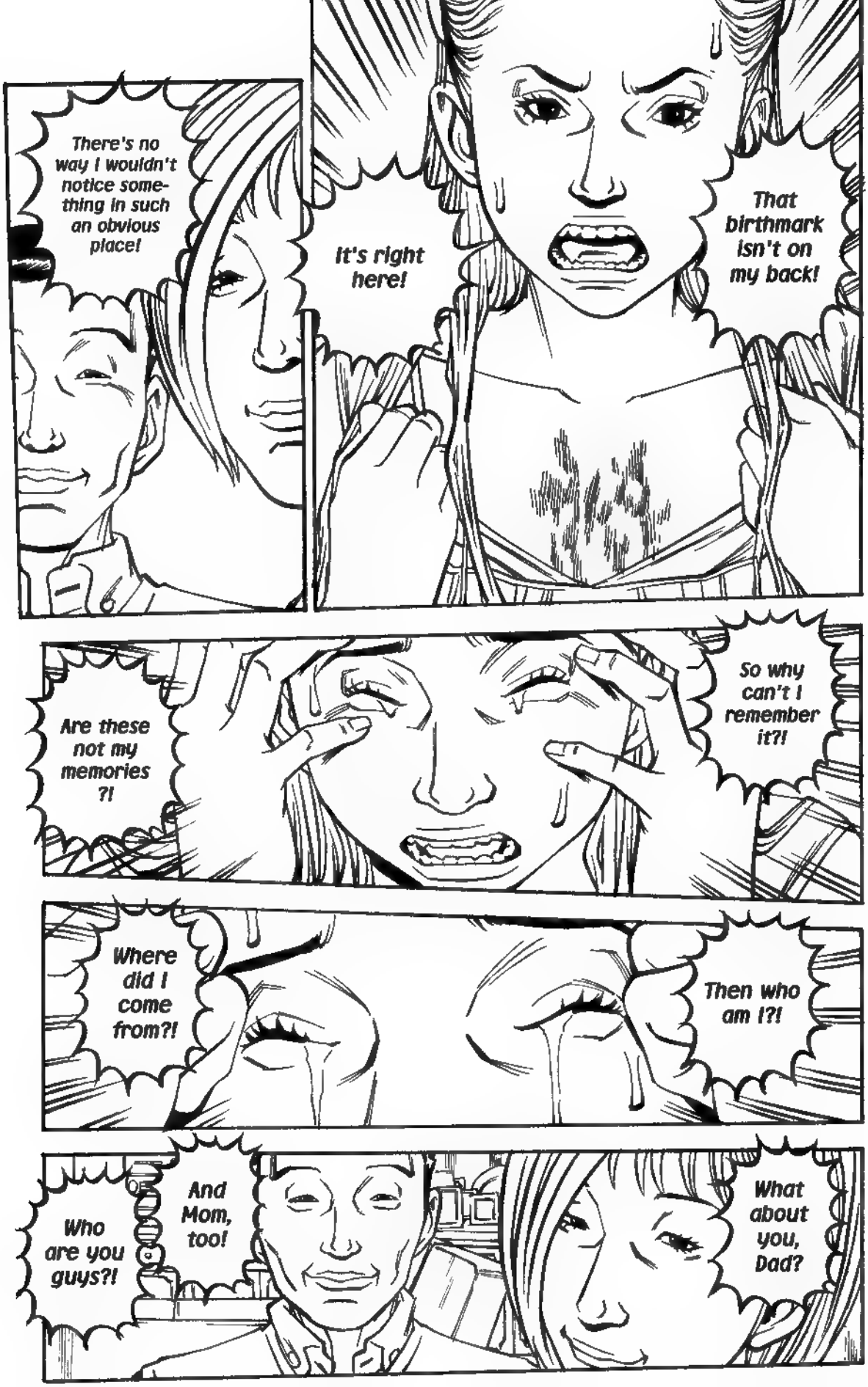

RRRING
Because your omelettes are the best!
You're always going on about omelettes, dear...
Right, Mizuki?
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
Today... On my way home...
Um, listen...
At the prom-enade along the riverside...
CLAK
...
Eeeek!
KRESH!

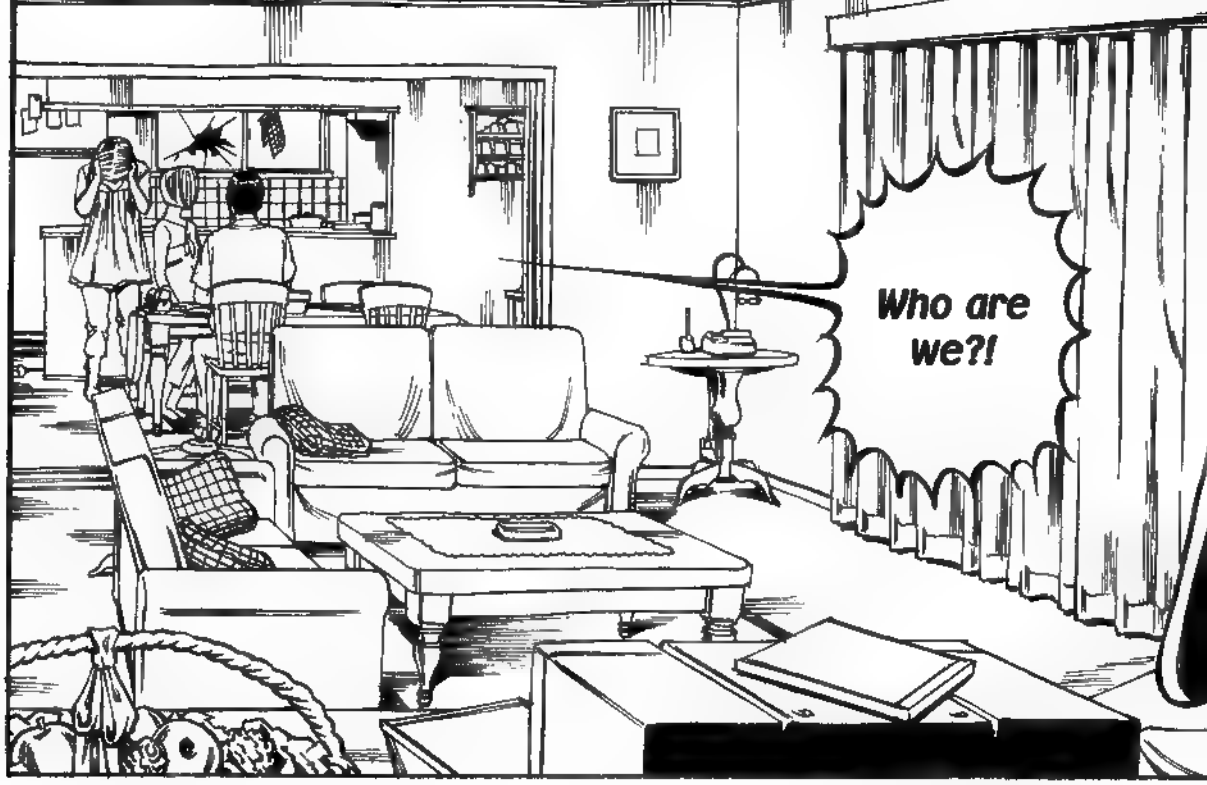
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
EEEH
KTUNK
I can't take it anymore!
How can you two remain so calm?!

How can you smile when all this is going on?!
Why are you smiling?!
Even though we get prank calls all day long?
Happily ...?
Nothing but graffiti and posters and rotten garbage day after day...
The three of us are living happily together in Soil, aren't we?
That's right.
Because we're a happy family.


Virtual things can't be broken.
Mizuki can't understand things like that.
Come on, dear.
You're right. She's still a child.
Hey...
How long has the bruise on my back been there?
Ahaha-hahaha!
Haha-haha!
...
What ...?

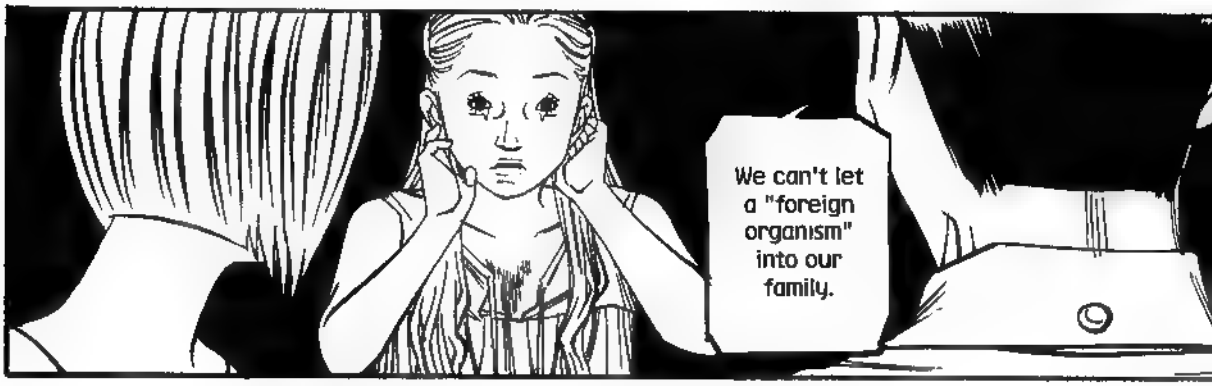
All I've got are happy memories... So much that it's weird...
But... I don't remember anything like that...
Bruise?
Oh... You mean your birthmark. You've had it since you were born.
Thinking that I hated it... At the pool or when changing my clothes...
I started thinking about it after we came to Soil...
RIP
So obviously you wouldn't notice it.
...
Well, it's on your back.


There's no way I wouldn't notice something in such an obvious place!
It's right here!
That birthmark isn't on my back!
Are these not my memories ?!
So why can't I remember it?!
Where did I come from?!
Then who am I?!
Who are you guys?!
And Mom, too!
What about you, Dad?

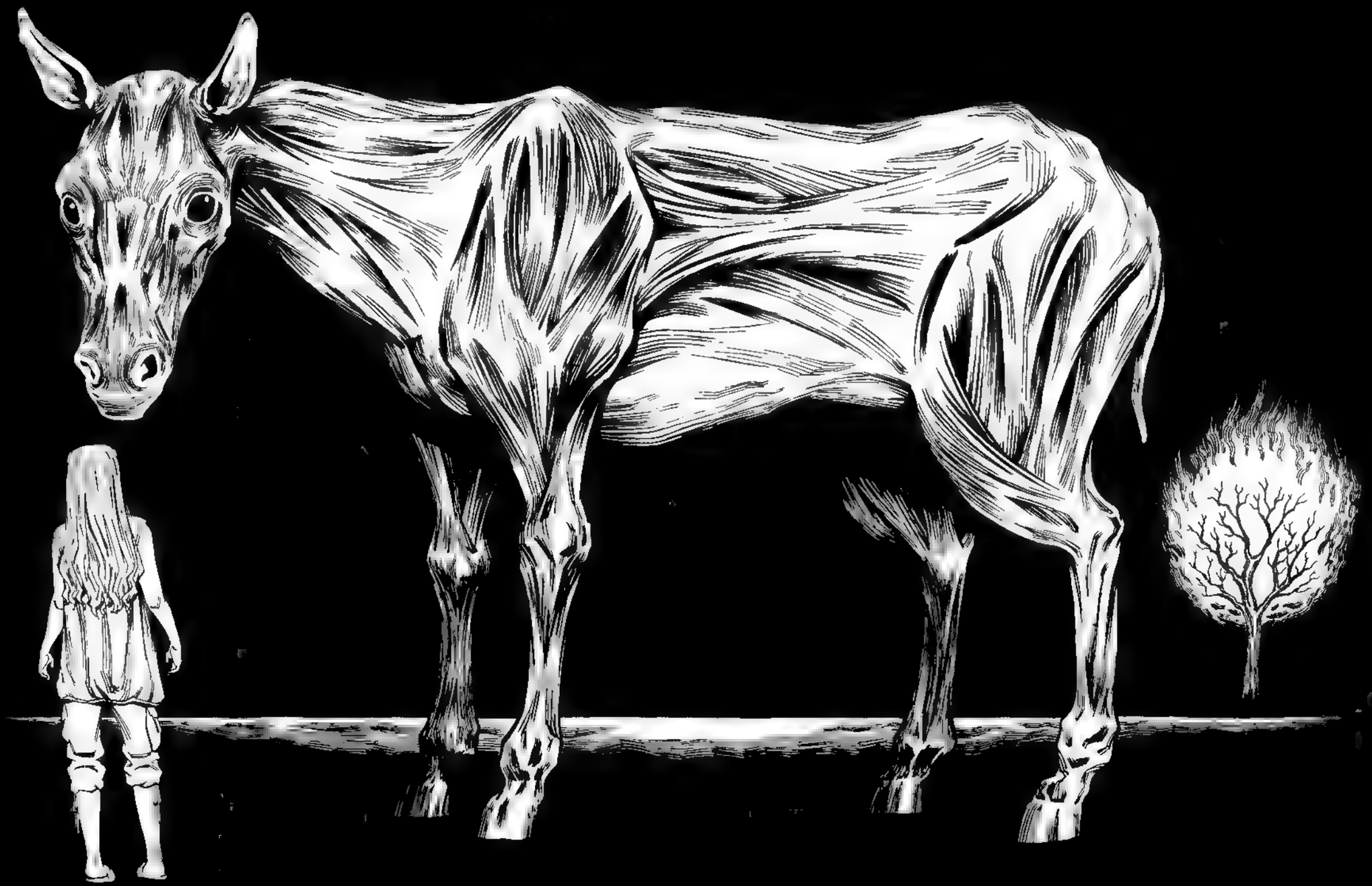

Who are we?!

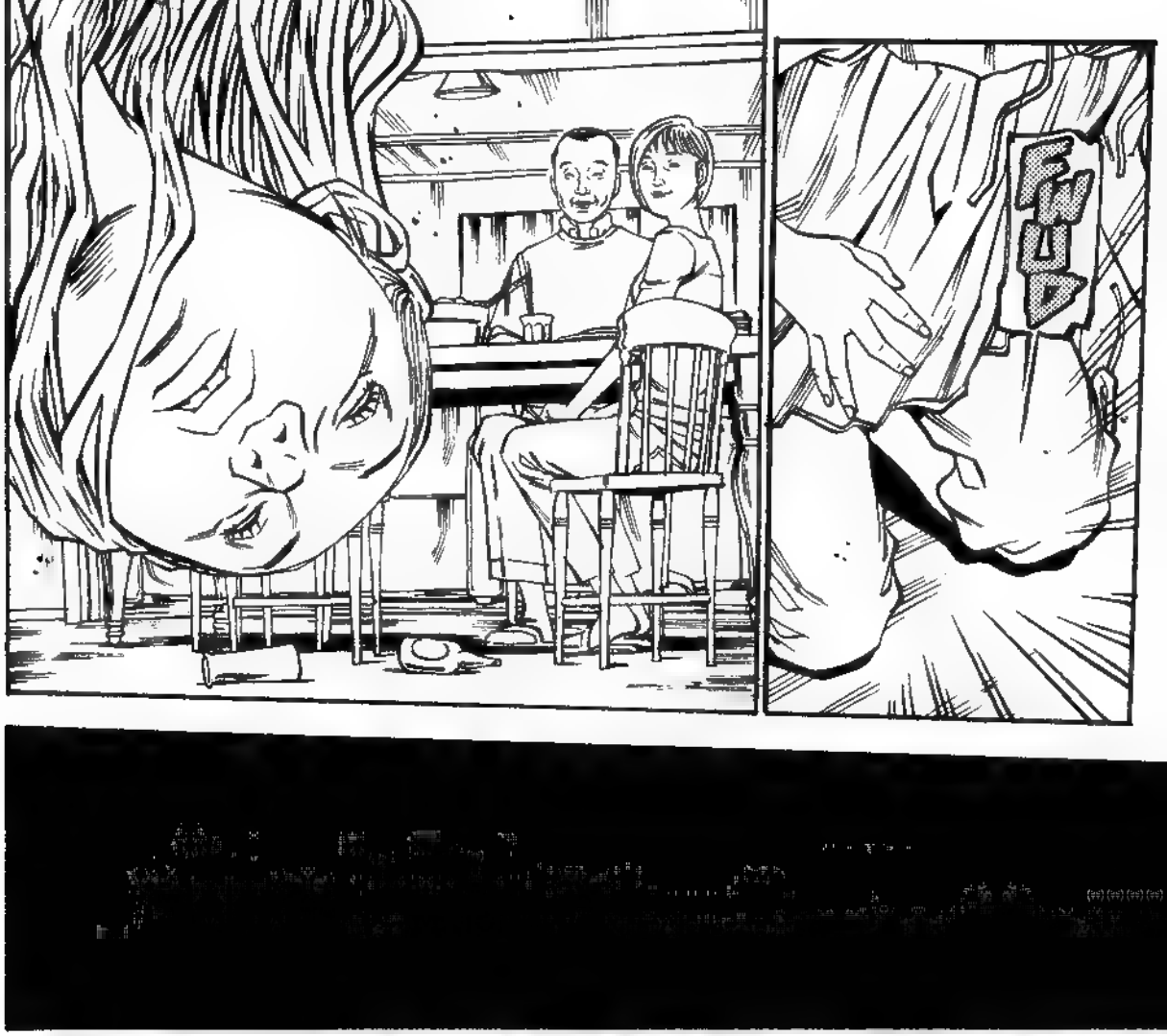
Hurry up and find a new owner for that hamster.

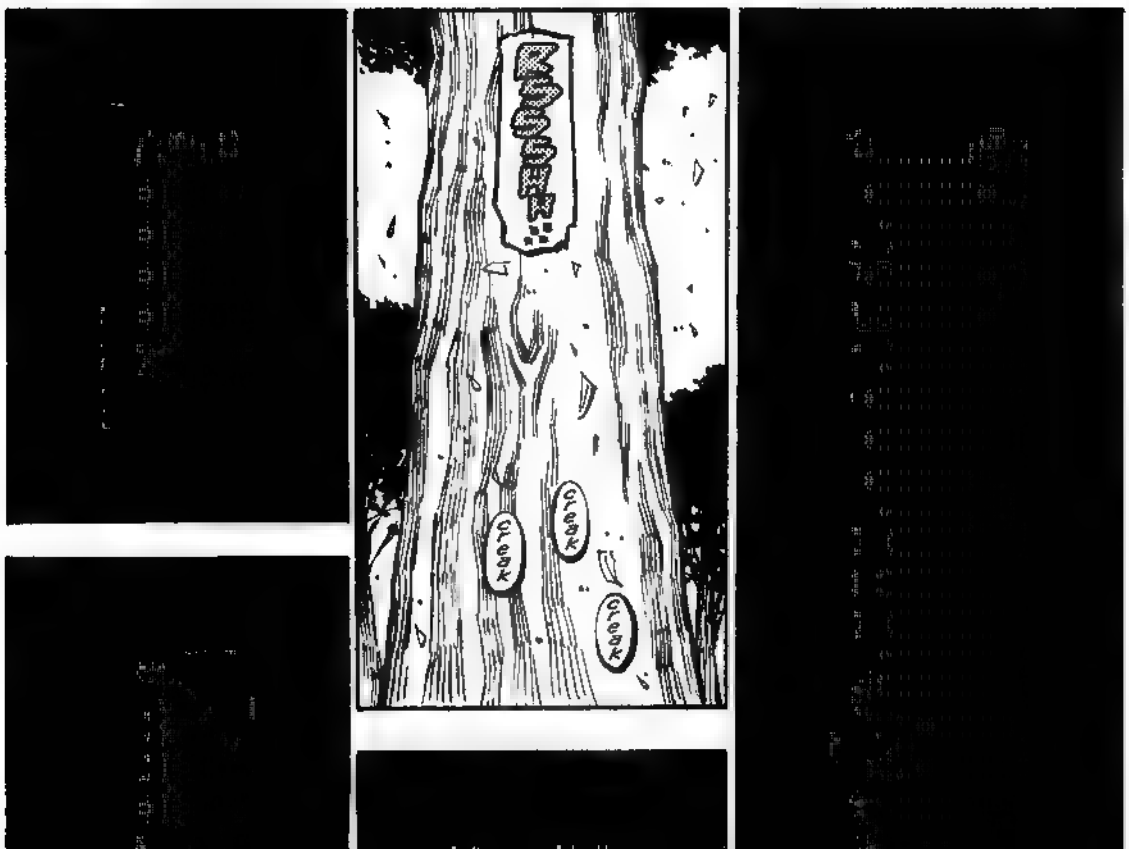
Mizuki.

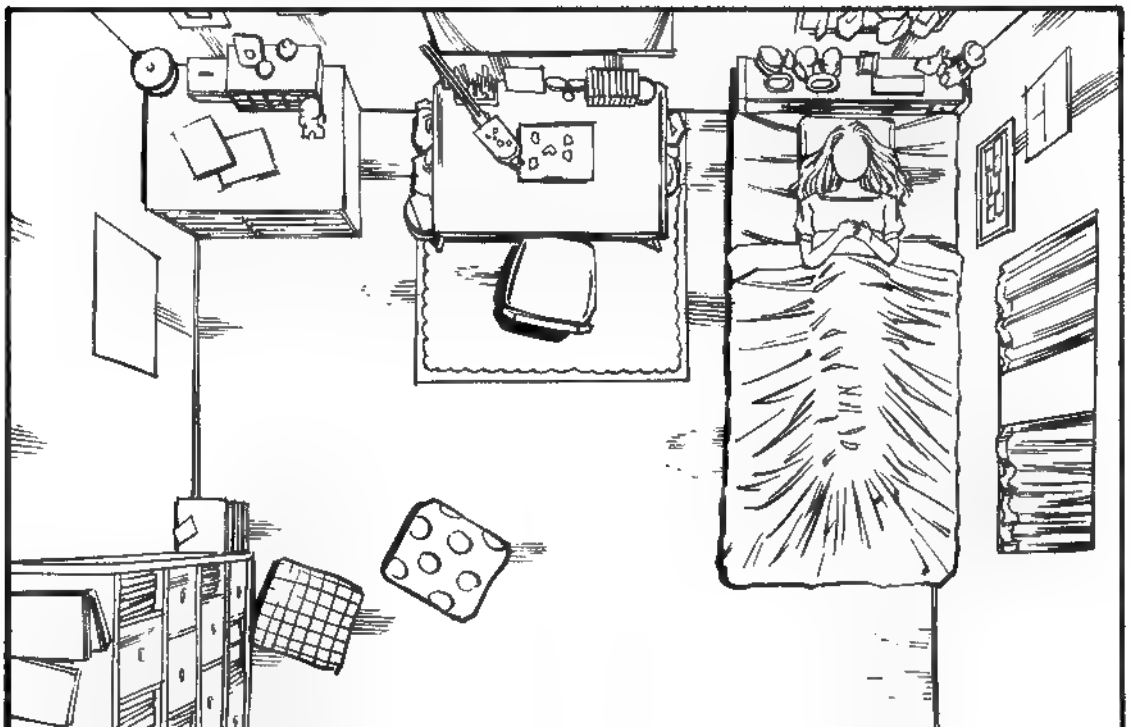

We can't let a "foreign organism" into our family.

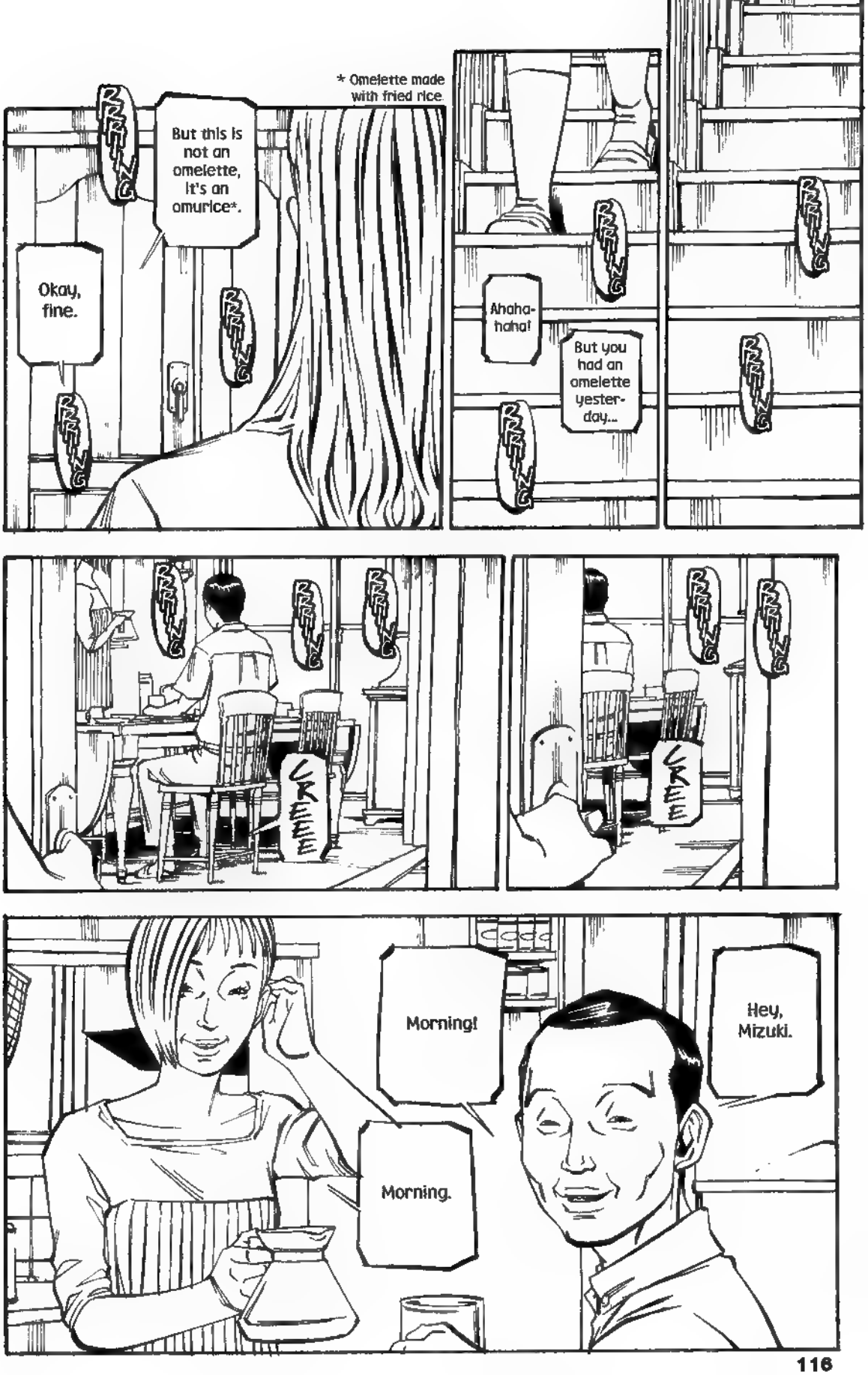
What are you talking about?
This isn't the time to talk about--
I don't want... to fall asleep now...
No...
Something I want to know...
There's something important...

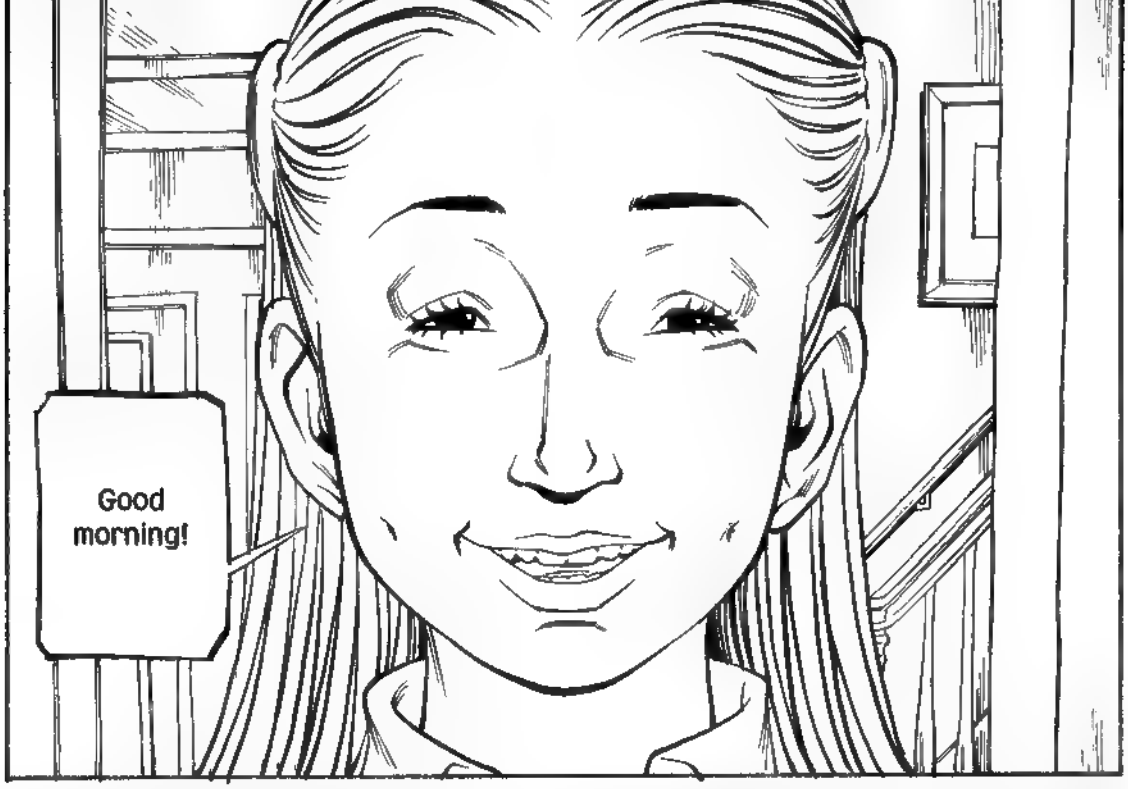


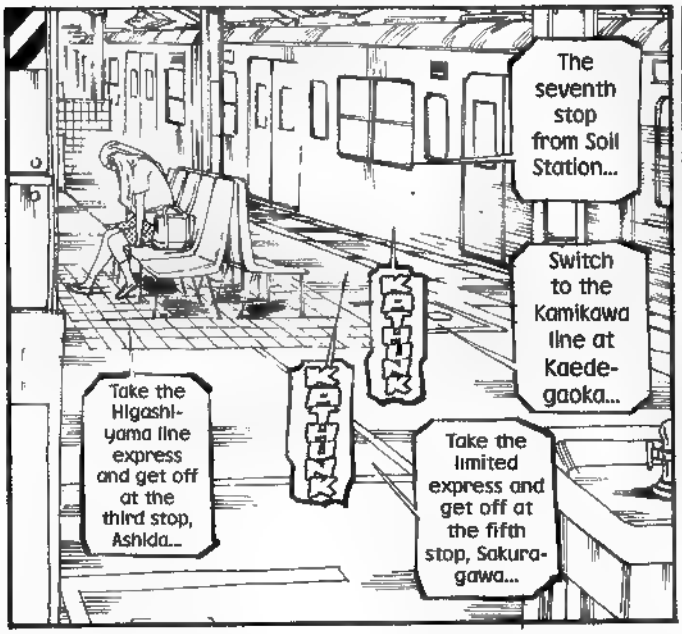

FWUP


KRRRRRRK!!
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK



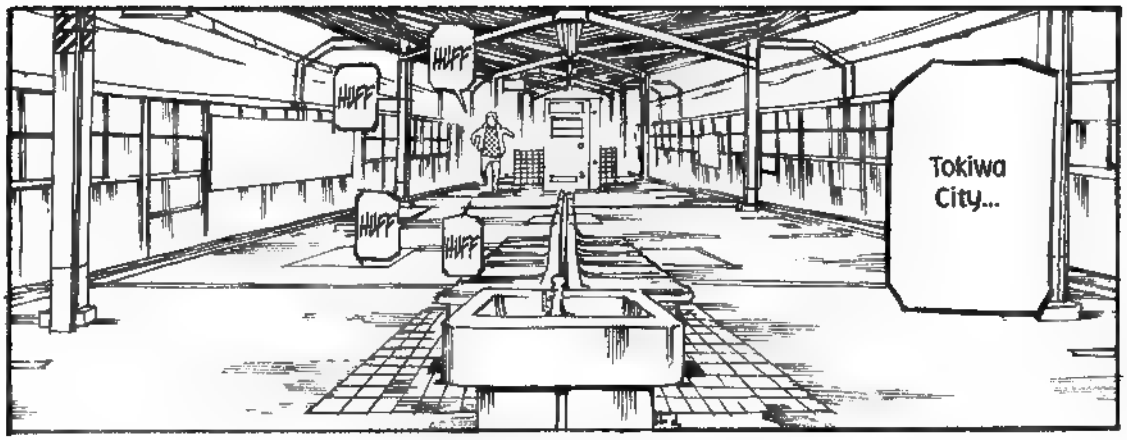

* Omelette made with fried rice
RRRING
But this is not an omelette, it's an omurice*.
Okay, fine.
Ahaha-haha!
But you had an omelette yester-day...
GREEE
Morning!
Hey, Mizuki.
Morning.

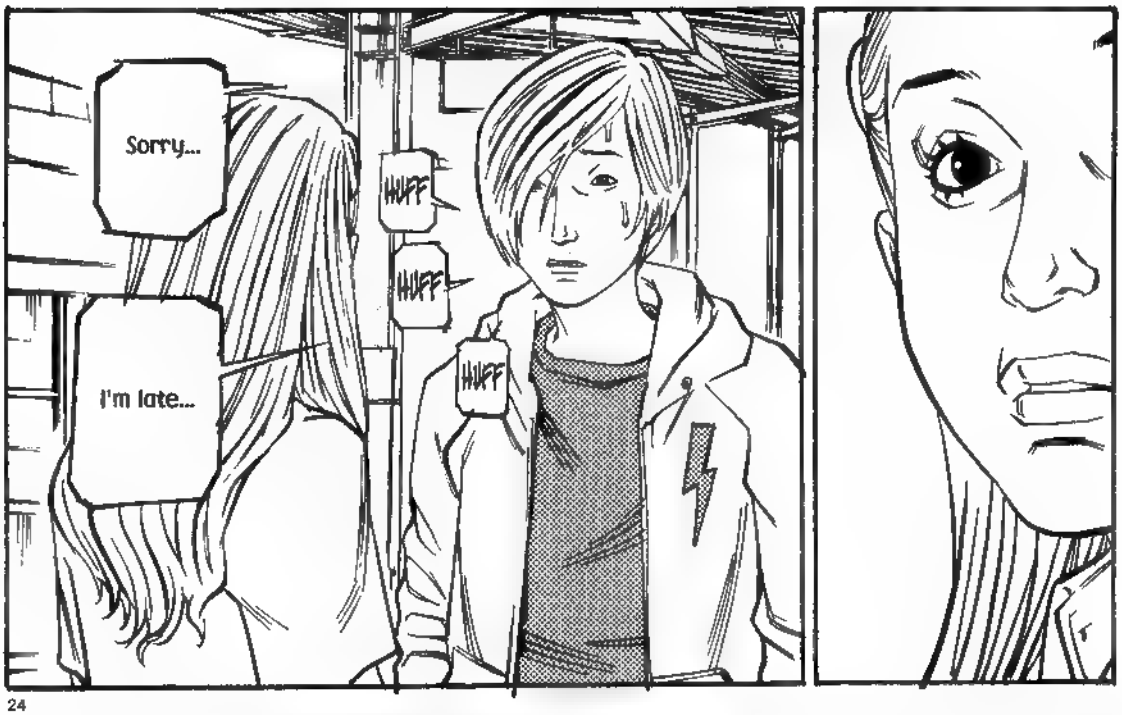

Good morning!


The seventh stop from Soil Station...
Switch to the Kamikawa line at Kaede-gaoka...
KATHUNK
KATHUNK
Take the Higashi-yama line express and get off at the third stop, Ashida...
Take the limited express and get off at the fifth stop, Sakura-gawa...

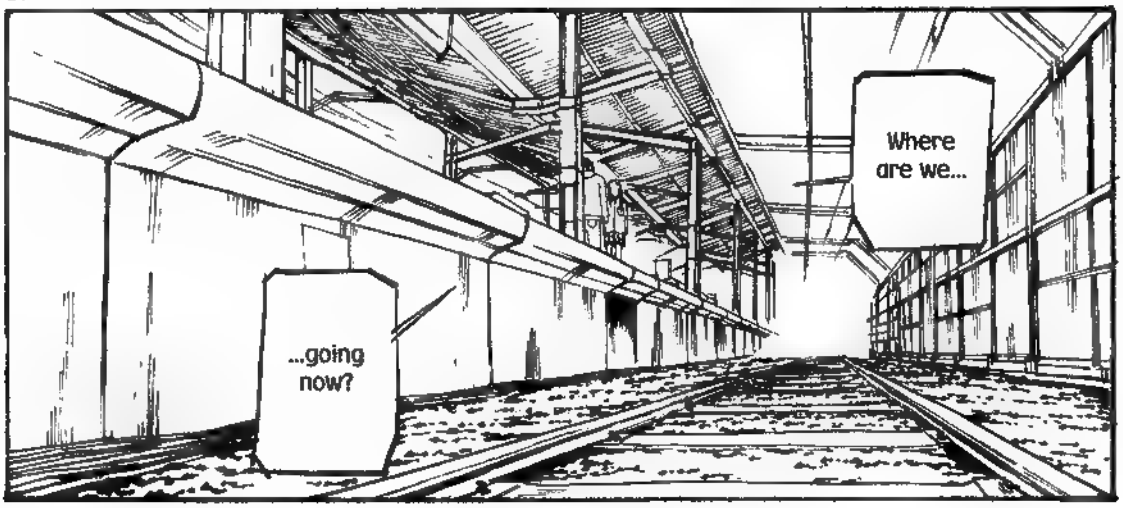
Soil New Town
そいるニュータウン
VRRR

And the eighth stop is...
Get on the local train at Ashida...
KA-CHUNK
KA-CHUNK
KA-CHUNK


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
Tokiwa City...


Sorry...
I'm late...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

24

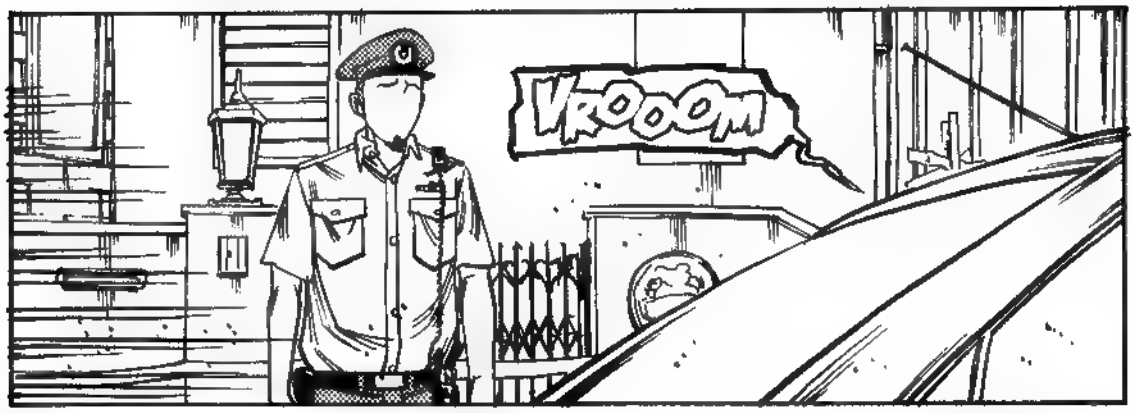

Where are we...
...going now?

SOIL
Block 2-23 [End]

SOIL

Block 2-24 [inside]

VROOOM


VROOOM

SKREE

I-I-I-I'm terribly sorry we're so late!
Hello, Detective! Thanks for coming!
W-we kept getting lost once we got into town.
KCHAK
G-g-g-good morning, Officer!
I-I-it's really strange...
I-I-I saw the flowers mutating along the way with m-m-my very own eyes...
KCHAK
!

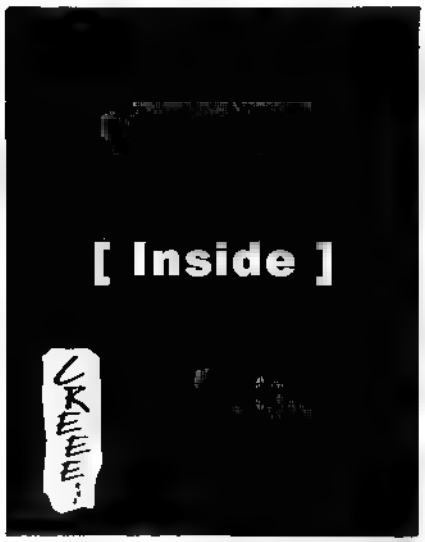
GULP
GULP
GULP
Where have you been all this time?!
Y-you're back?!
Mr. Yokoi ...?!
M-
GASP
I-I'll fill you in on the details later...
...
GULP
GULP
GULP

I discovered it late last night.
All I can say is it's extremely bizarre...
In the Suzushiro house.
S-s-so what's the unusual thing you were talking about...?
I-it's inside.
Why the hell would you go in there?
U-uh, well, because ...
I-I-I was doing a periodic check...
Were you alone?
O-of course!
Hmph.
...

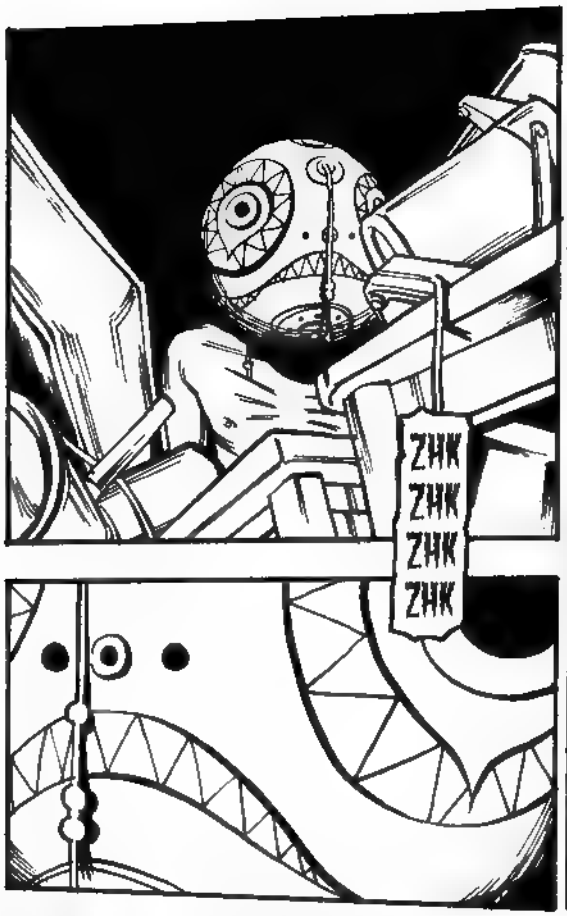
This is my ol' pal from Police Academy.
We used to split a lot of seized fake Rolexes when we were young.
Give me a break, man.
Hey, Yokoi...
Do I really have to come along?
Huh? Weren't you gonna lend us a hand, Yodogawa ?
...
Or about the Rolexes, either.
Don't worry, I won't tell the station about this.
Gee, you're really turning me off now, Seki.
Wanna go to my place and watch some really nasty alien vivisection videos right now?
T-this is bad, Tomiyama.

BLOCK 2-24

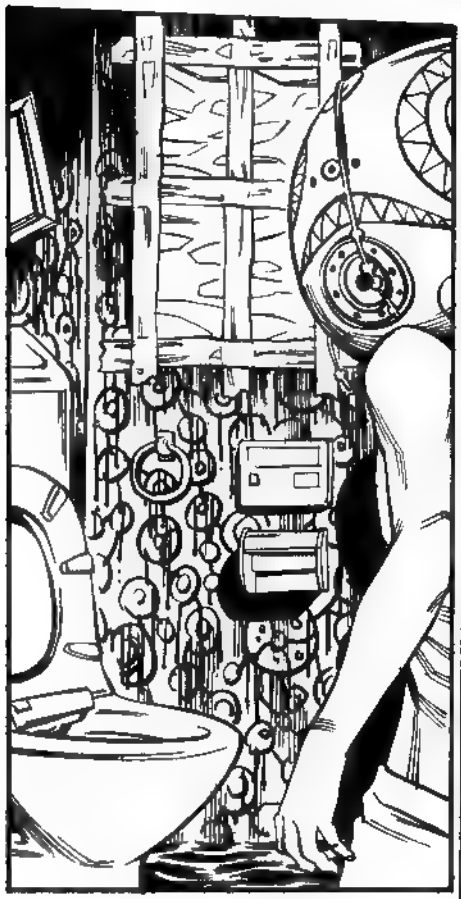
Here we go.
All right...


[Inside]
CREEE!

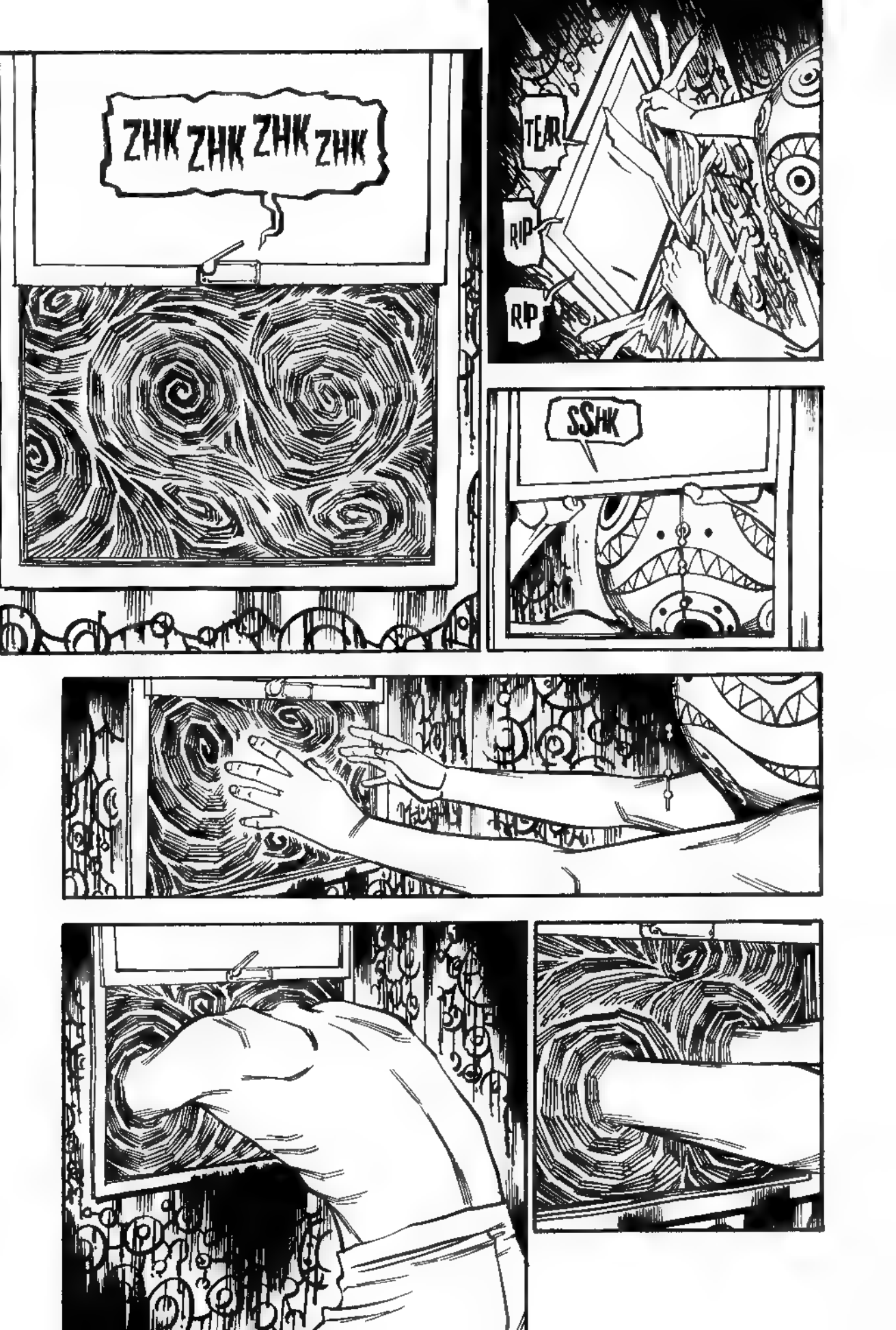
CREAK

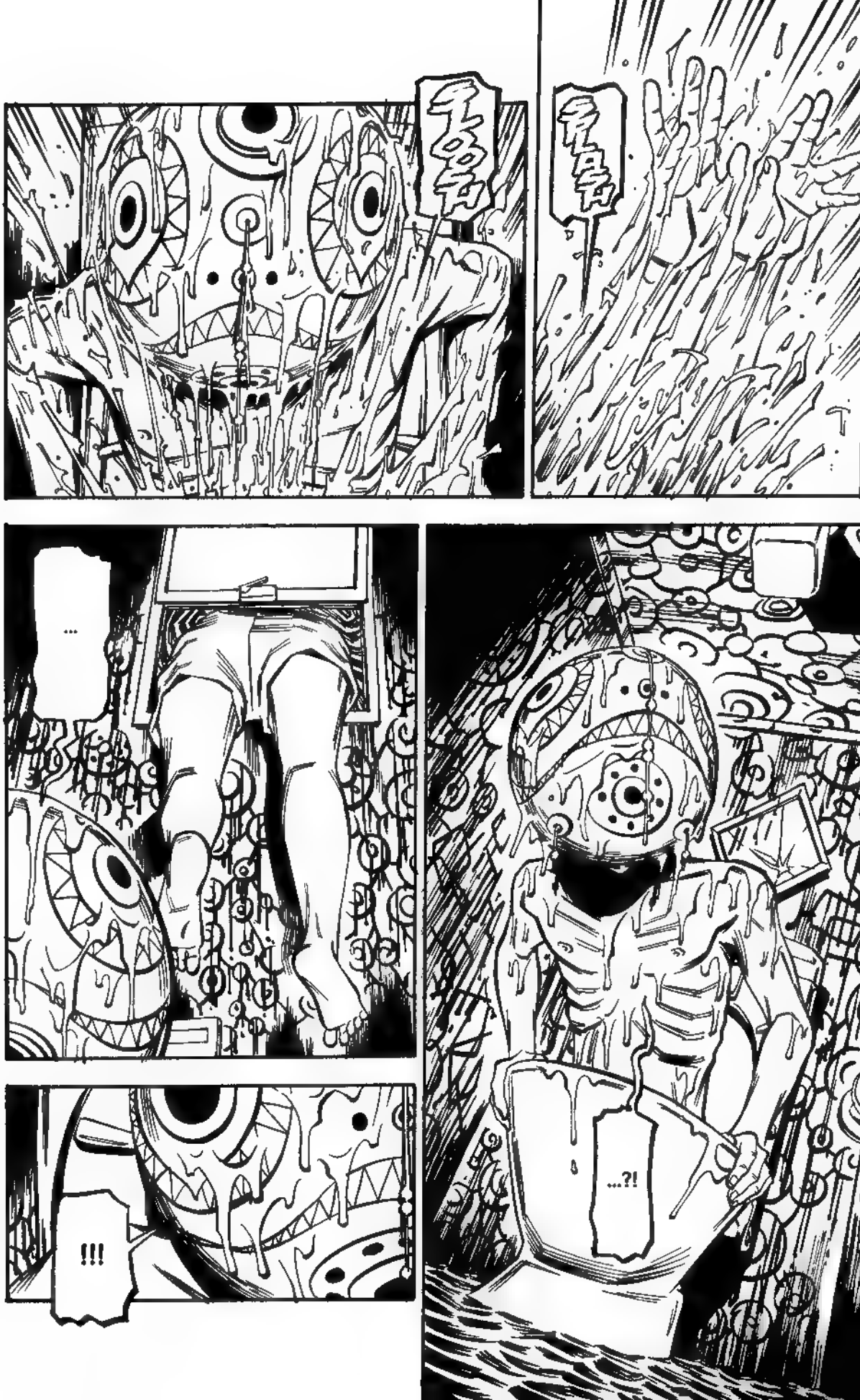

ZHK
ZHK
ZHK
ZHK

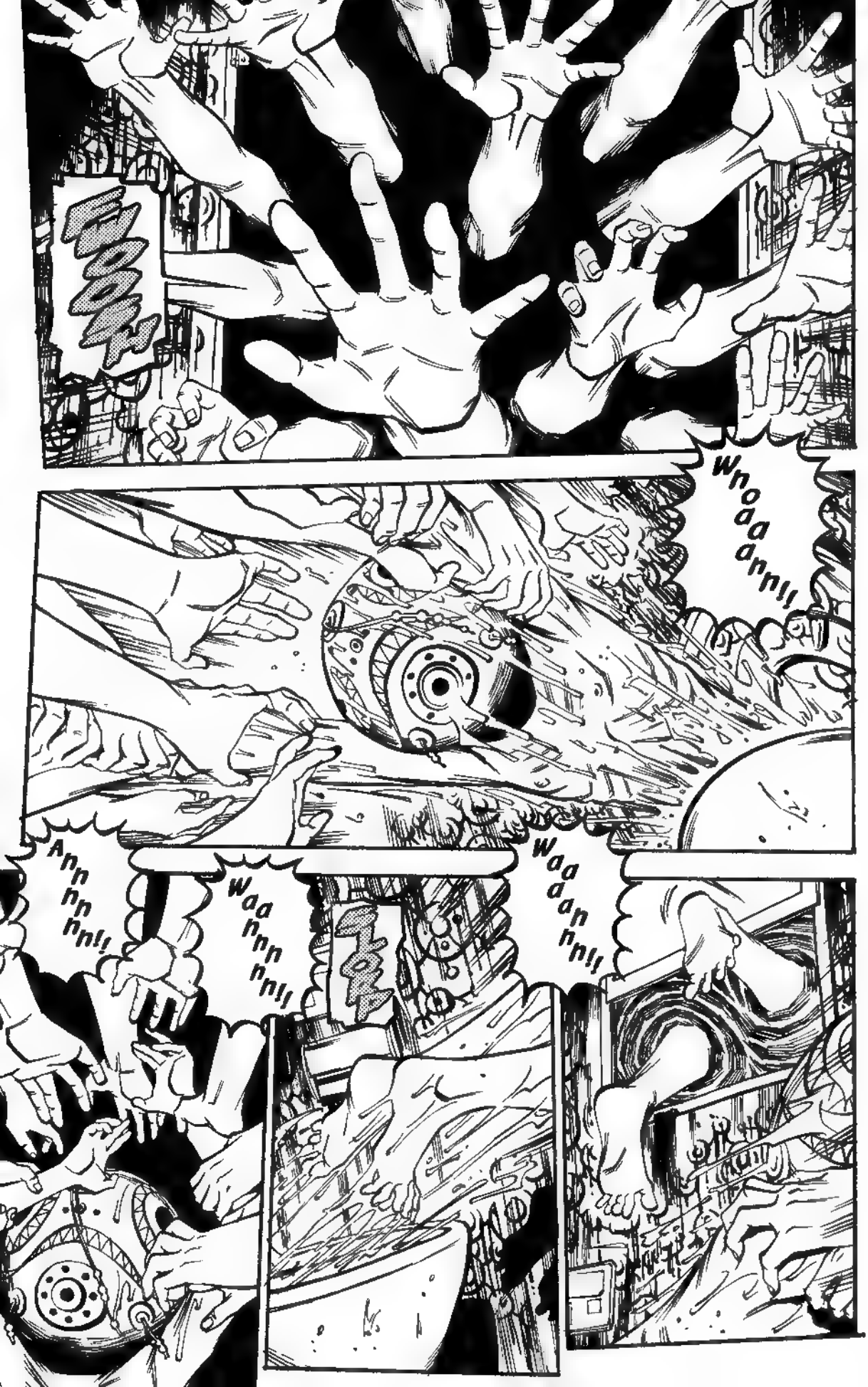
ZHK
ZHK
ZHK
ZHK
ZHK

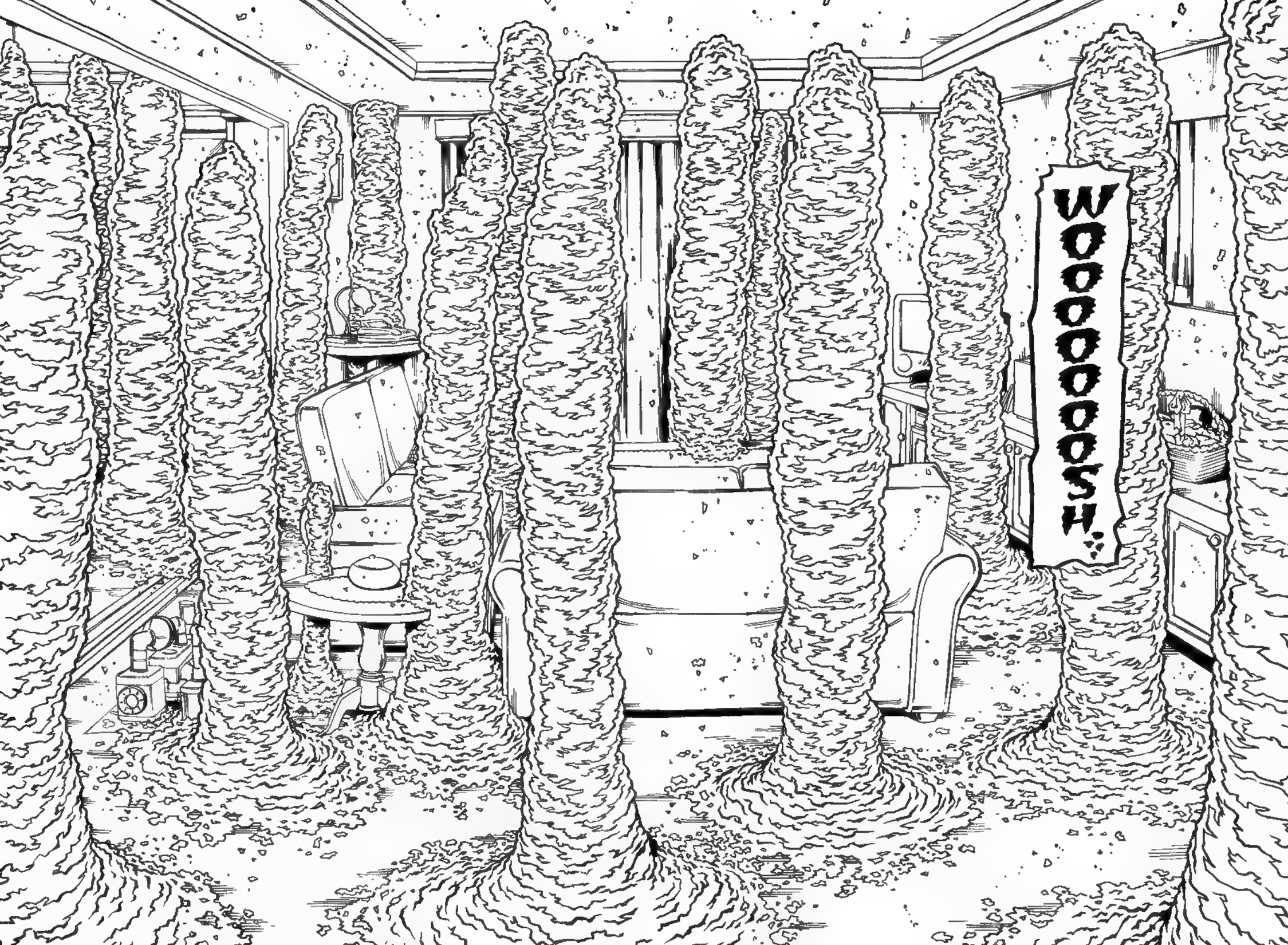


PLASH
PLASH
PLASH


ZHK ZHK ZHK ZHK
TEAR
RIP
RP
SSHK

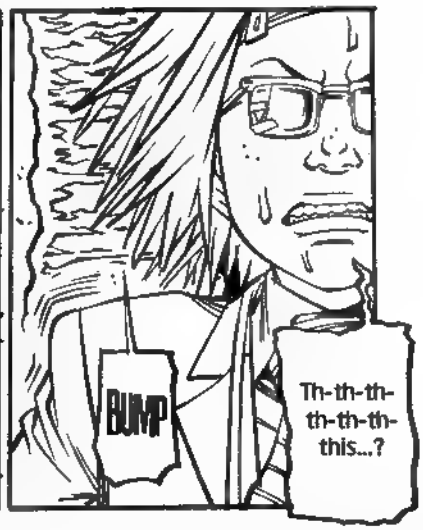

ぐぐぐ
ぐぐぐ
...
...?!
!!!


FOOM!
Whoaaannn!!
Waaannn!!
Waaannn!!
Annnnnn!!

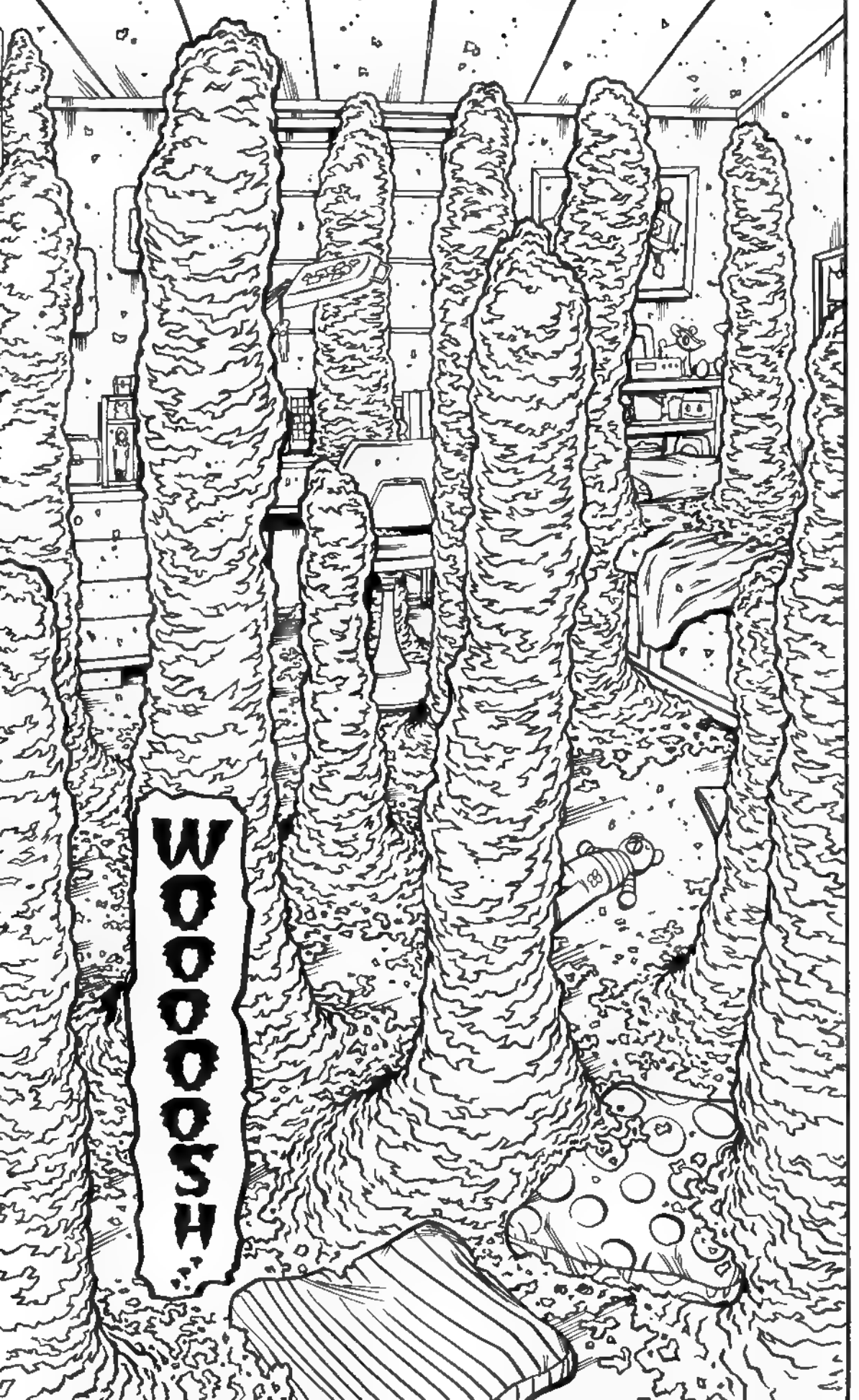

WOOOOOOSH

I-i-i-i-i-i-i-i-is...
Wha-wha-wha-wha-wha...
Wha-

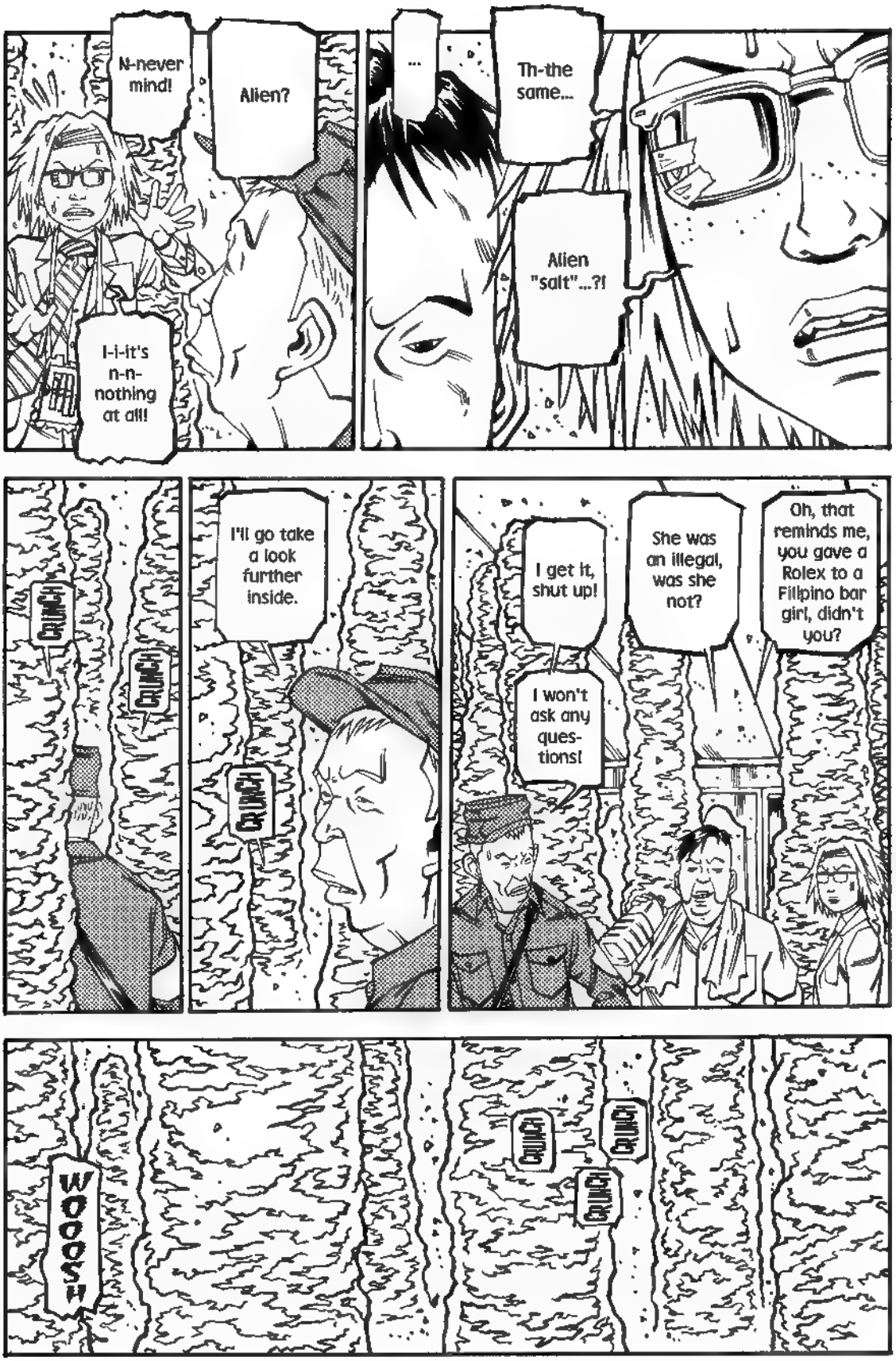
CRUMBLE
Gahh!


BUMP
Th-th-th-th-th-th-this...?

Yeah...
Are they in the daughter's room, too?
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
No, no, no, no, no!
Ahhhh!


WOOOOSH

Nothing but pillars of "salt" everywhere you look.
It's like this all throughout the house...
...
I can't say what it is until we analyze it...
...but it looks like the same "salt" we found when the incident occured.

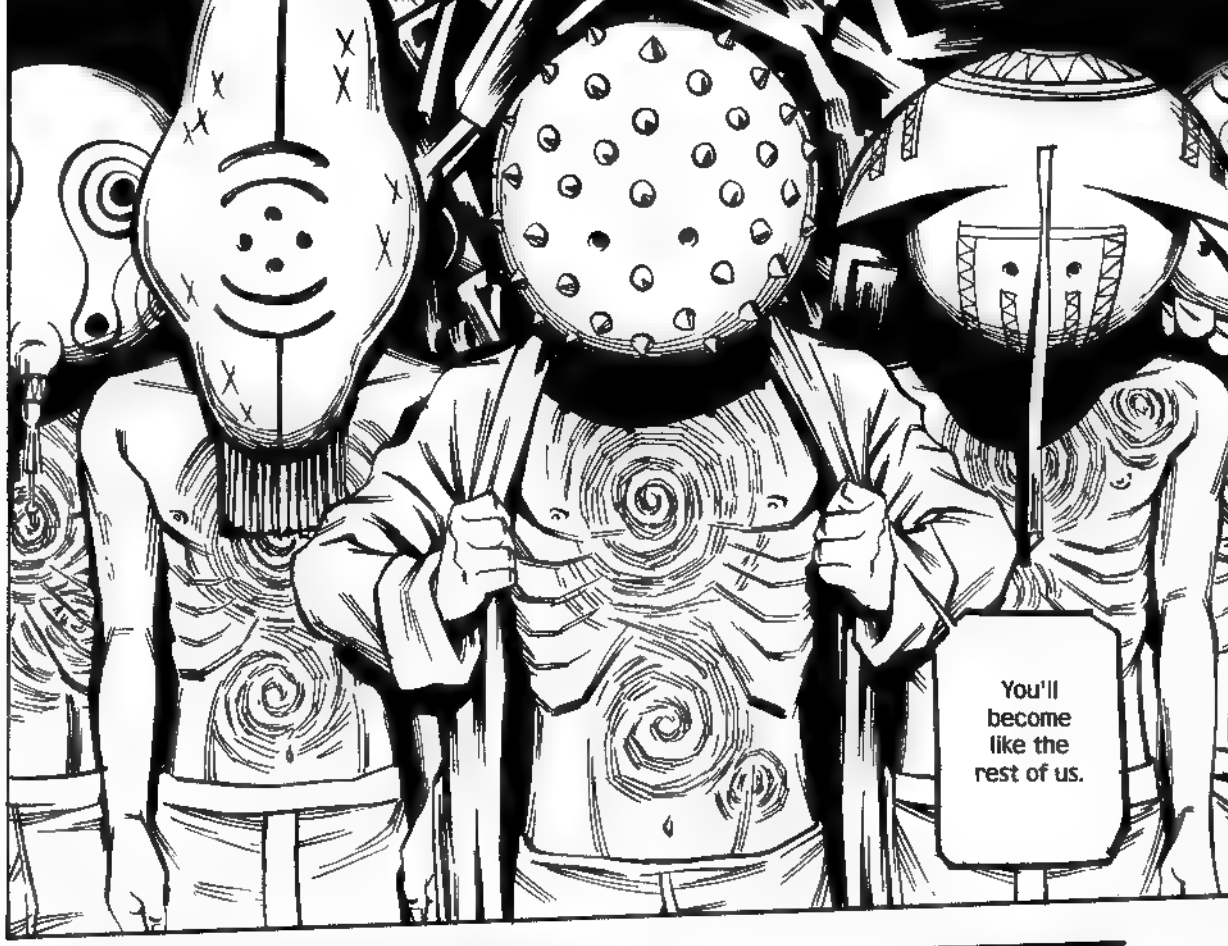

N-never mind!
Alien?
I-i-it's n-n-nothing at all!
...
Th-the same...
Alien "salt"...?!
CHUNK
CHUNK
CHUNK
I'll go take a look further inside.
I get it, shut up!
She was an illegal, was she not?
Oh, that reminds me, you gave a Rolex to a Filipino bar girl, didn't you?
I won't ask any questions!
WOOOSH
CHUNK
CHUNK
CHUNK

Oh my God! Maybe they're right...!
Maybe it's all *their* work...!
And this time it's more than ever!
There's "salt" in this house again...
Aahhhh! What's going on here?!
Want me to punch you again?
GULP
GULP
GULP
...
...
"Their" work? Whose?
Oh, um, you know...
E-extra-terres-trials?
A-and this wind...
All the windows are supposed to be sealed...
WOOOSH
B-but why is it so cold in here?

I'm cold. Let's get outta here.
Yodo-gawa.
Yodo-gawa.
Hey!
WOOOOSH...
Yodo-gawa!
WOOOOSH...

What we do is useless anyway! Nothing's gonna change!
I wanna get out of here!
No! I hate this! Let me go!
I'm saying this "battle" is meaningless!
Wh-what are you talking about?!
But that isn't what you really think, is it?

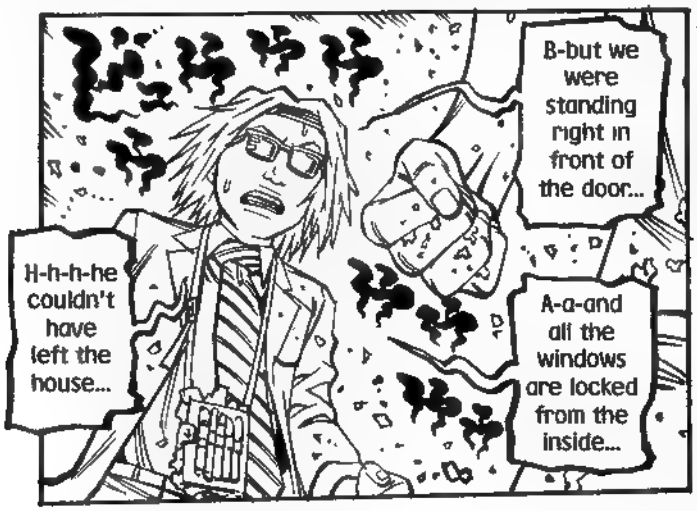
The real enemy was inside this house.
You're being forced to say things you don't really think.
"Aerial ameba bodies" have invaded your body.
They're trying to split us up by invading one of us.
"Aerial ameba bodies" are floating around in here.
We have to perform a ceremony to cast out the enemy.
I-I haven't gone crazy!
You guys are the crazy ones!


You'll become like the rest of us.

Noooo-ooooo!
No! No!

No!
No way!
I don't want a tattoo!

SMASH


B-but we were standing right in front of the door...
H-h-h-he couldn't have left the house...
A-a-and all the windows are locked from the inside...

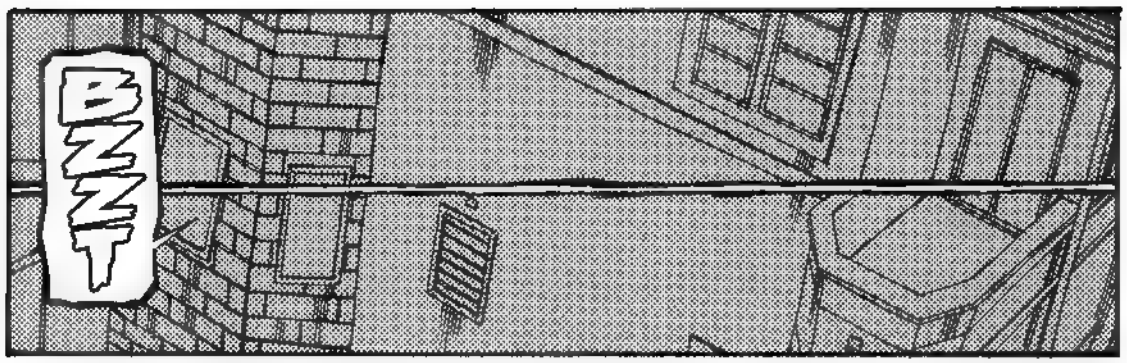
I looked all over the house but he's no-where to be found!
H-he's gone!

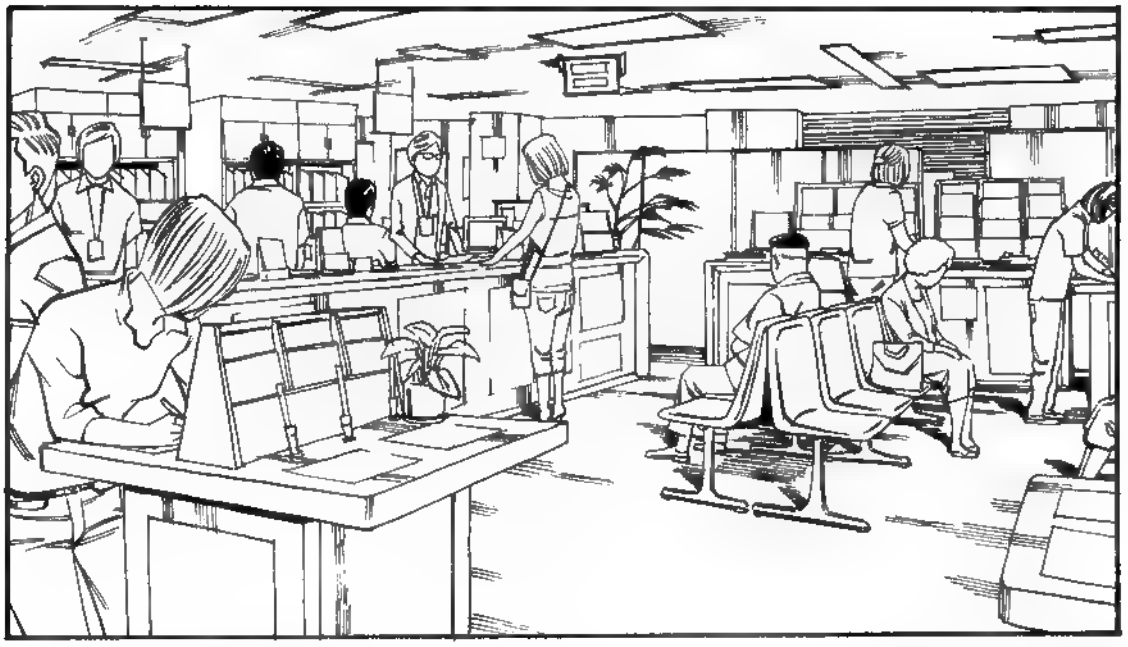
Fuck...

He...
He disap-peared...!
Another person disap-peared...!
WOOOOSH!

SOIL
Block 2-24 [End]

SOIL
Block 2-25 [Tokiwa City]

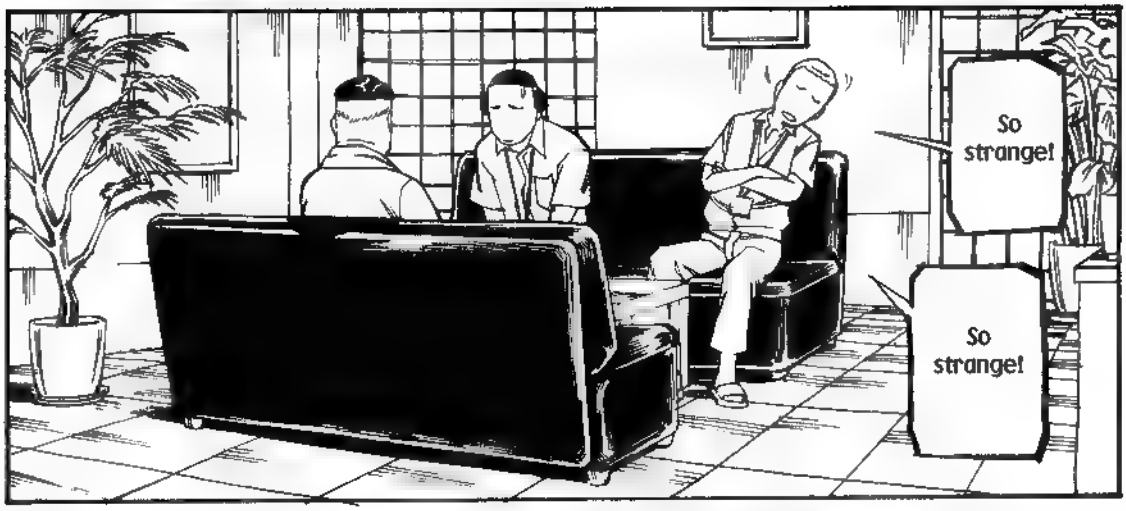

BZZT



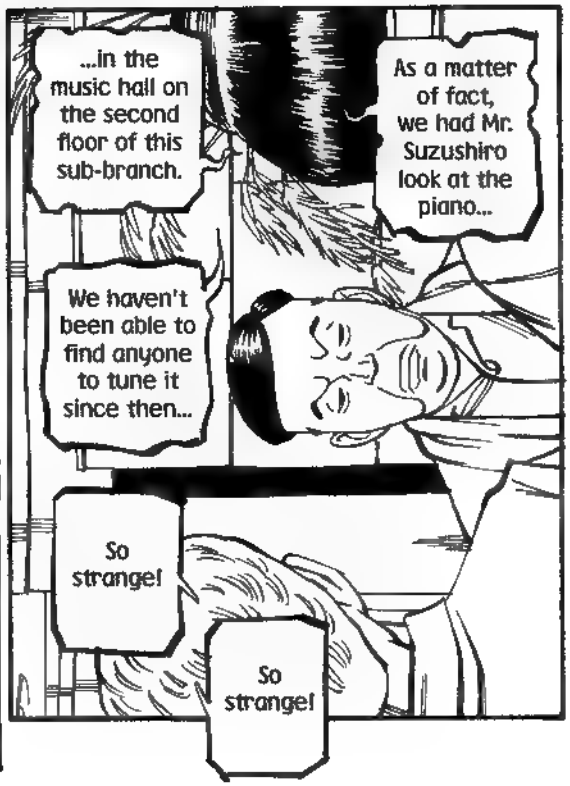
REGISTRY
FAMILY
REGISTRATION

BZZT
I'm... the head of this office. My name is Tanigaki...
Excuse me...
Are you Mr. Yokoi from Kamikawa Police Department?
Please step into this other room here, if you don't mind...
My apologies for keeping you waiting...

BLOCK 2-25

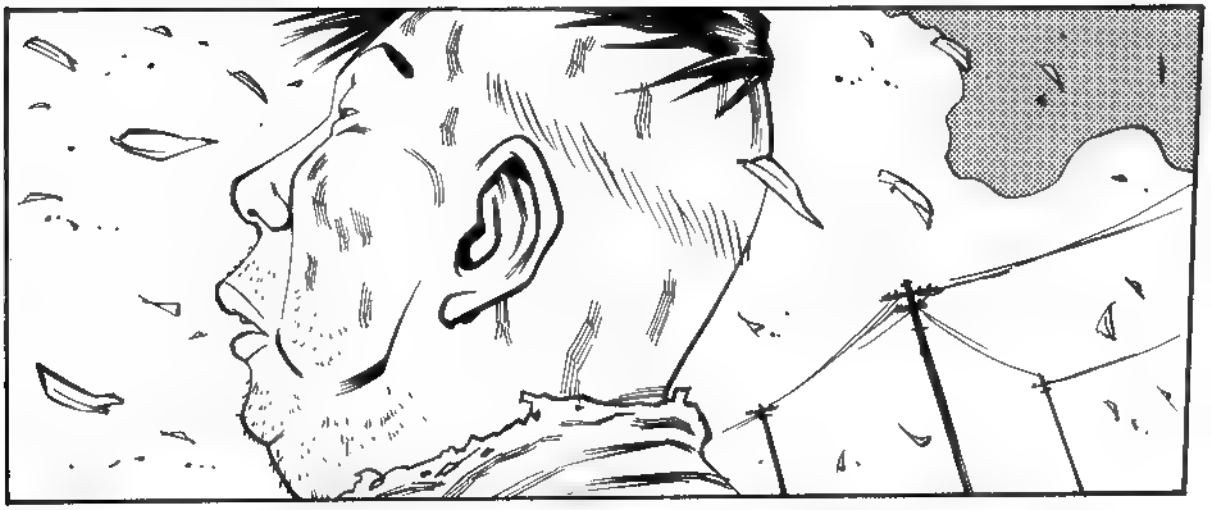

So strange!
So strange!

No, really... Something like this is quite impossible...
We're all completely baffled as well...

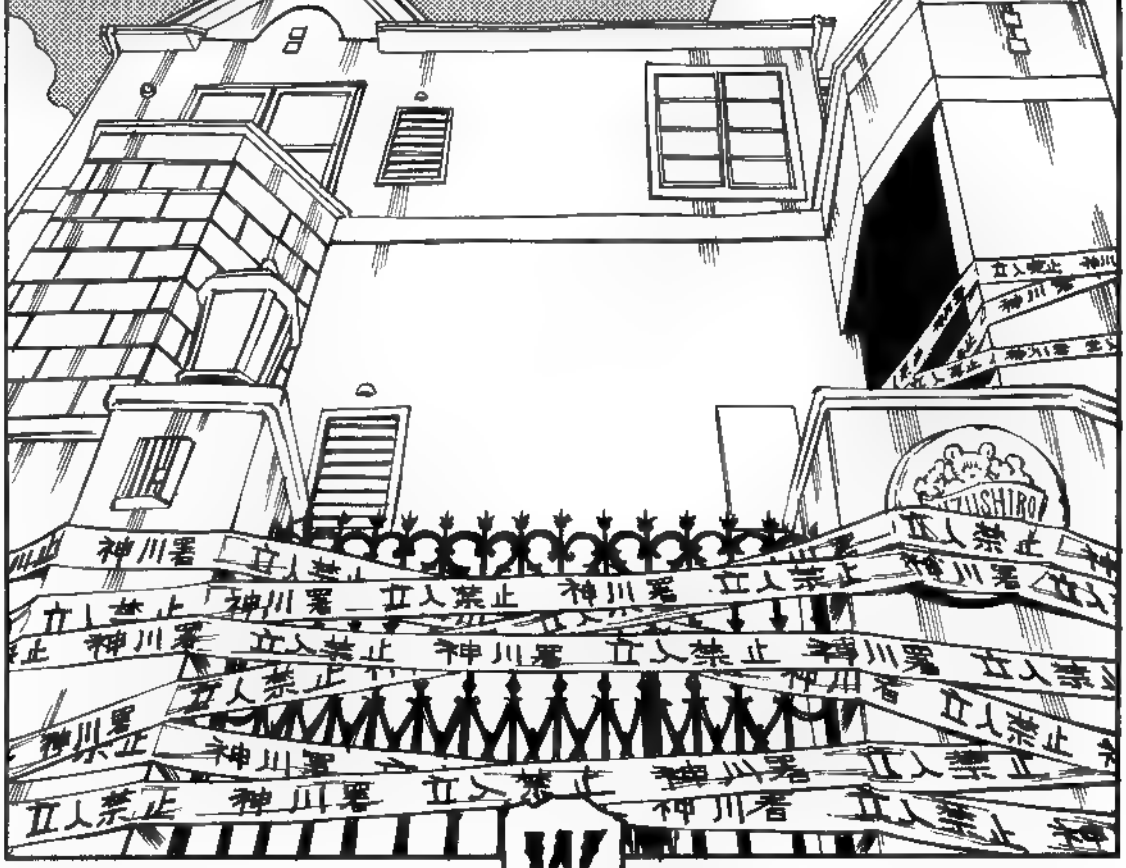

...in the music hall on the second floor of this sub-branch.
As a matter of fact, we had Mr. Suzushiro look at the piano...
We haven't been able to find anyone to tune it since then...
So strange!
So strange!

Yes, well, this country does revolve around the family register system.
Without a record, you can't even get basic education...
And Mr. Suzushiro was clearly able to live in "Soil" without any problems...
So what you're saying...
...is that they were here?
No! No! I remember it, I tell you!
Mr. Suzushiro handed in a certificate of residence all right!
We should have a record of that on file here...
So?
W-well...
All I can think of is...
...we must have made an administrative error somewhere.

So very strange!
So strange.
...were either lost or completely destroyed.
Somehow something went wrong and Mr. Suzushiro's records...
BNNT
We'd appreciate it if you'd... keep this quiet...
We'll investigate all over again, so...
G Pb
...
Umm... This...
?
I-it's a little gift...
A ball pen...



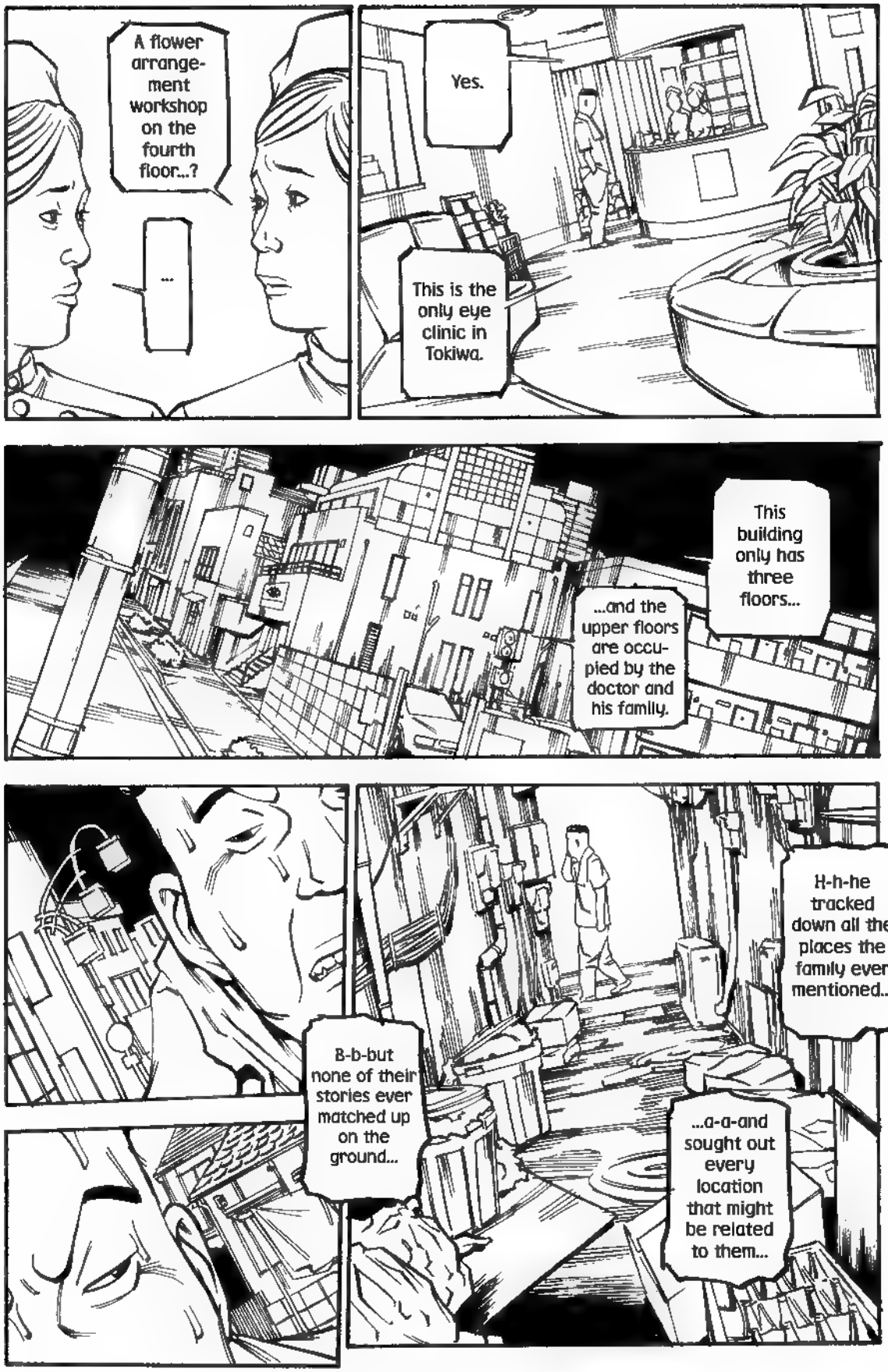
[Tokiwa City]

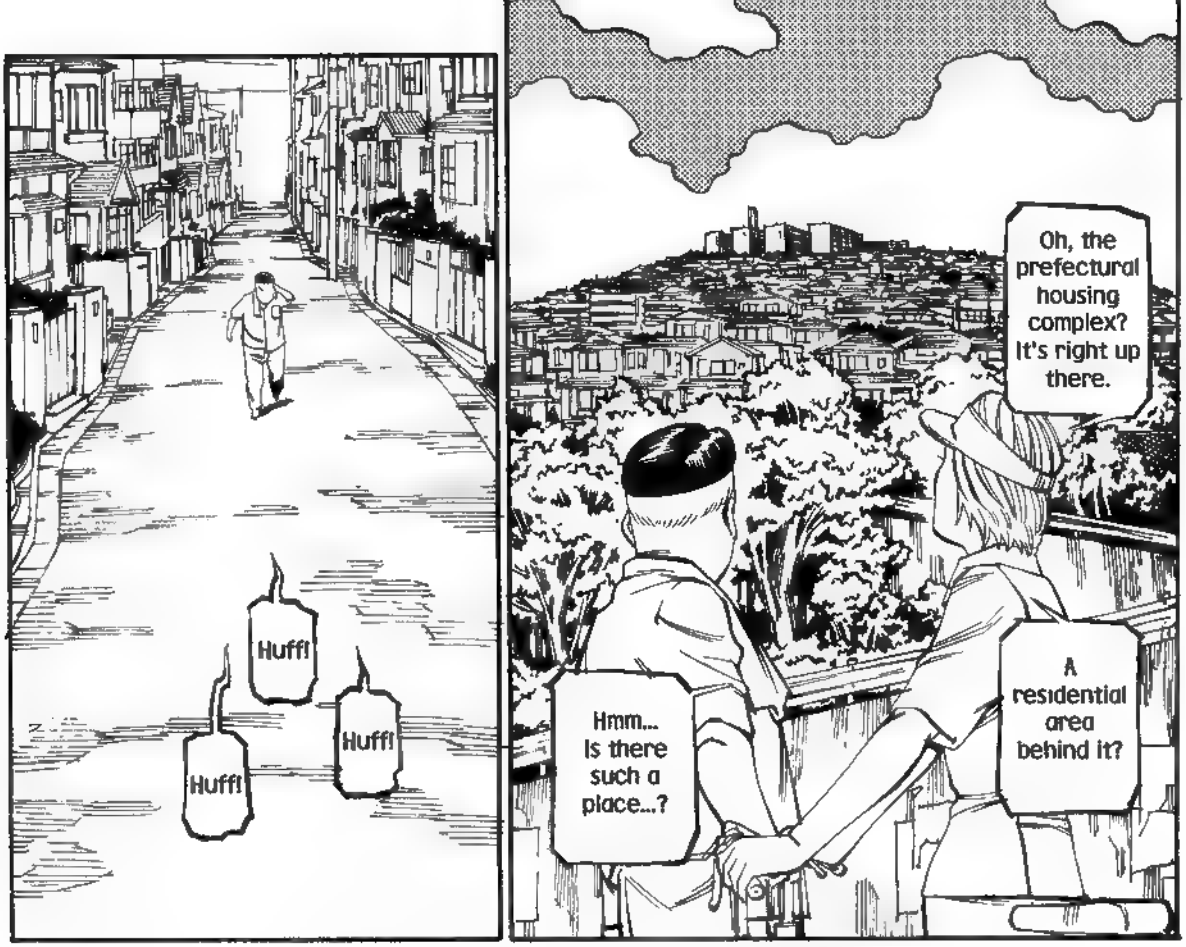

立入禁止 神川署

WHOOOOOSH

All the records at the public office...?
They're all gone?
...
...h-h-have been erased from "Soil."
In other words, all records of the S-Suzushiro family living here...
E-e-even the data on the computers...
A-all the documents they were supposed to have...
N-n-no matter where you look...
...the Suzushiros said they lived in "Tokiwa City" in the next prefecture before moving here.
A-a-according to the townsfolk...
RRRRR
...
S-so...?
The truth behind the Suzushiro family...
So that's what Mr. Yokoi was investigating when he was away...

However...
RRRR
Tokiwa City
ときわ町
BZZT
This station only has a north and a south exit.
East exit?
A nursery school by the river-side...?
Well... There's no such thing...

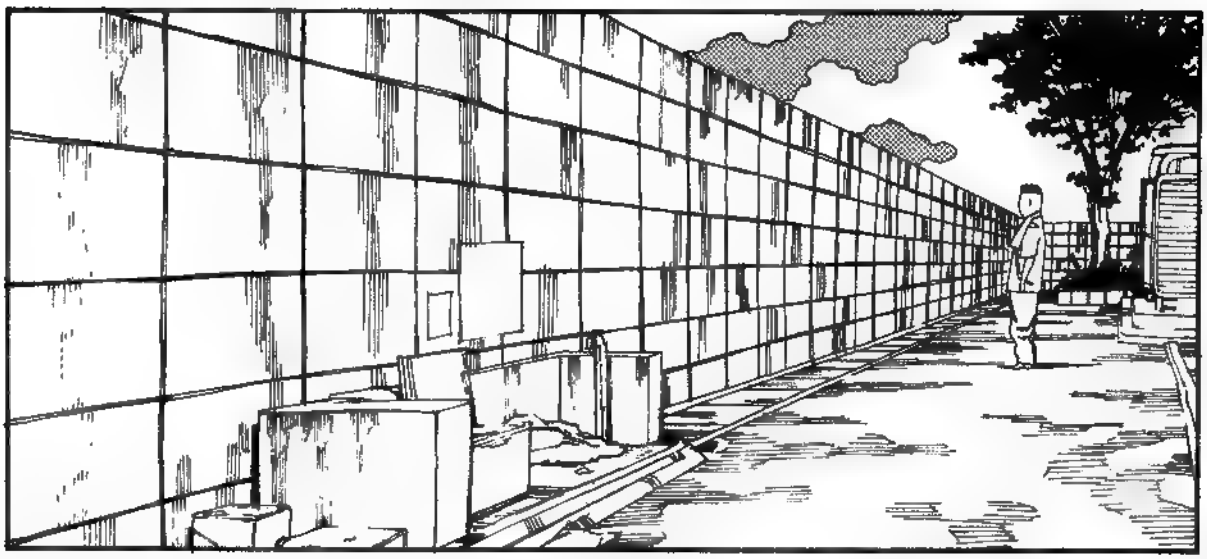

A flower arrange-ment workshop on the fourth floor...?
...
Yes.
This is the only eye clinic in Tokiwa.
This building only has three floors...
...and the upper floors are occu-pied by the doctor and his family.
H-h-he tracked down all the places the family ever mentioned...
B-b-but none of their stories ever matched up on the ground...
...a-a-and sought out every location that might be related to them...


Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
Hmm... Is there such a place...?
Oh, the prefectural housing complex? It's right up there.
A residential area behind it?

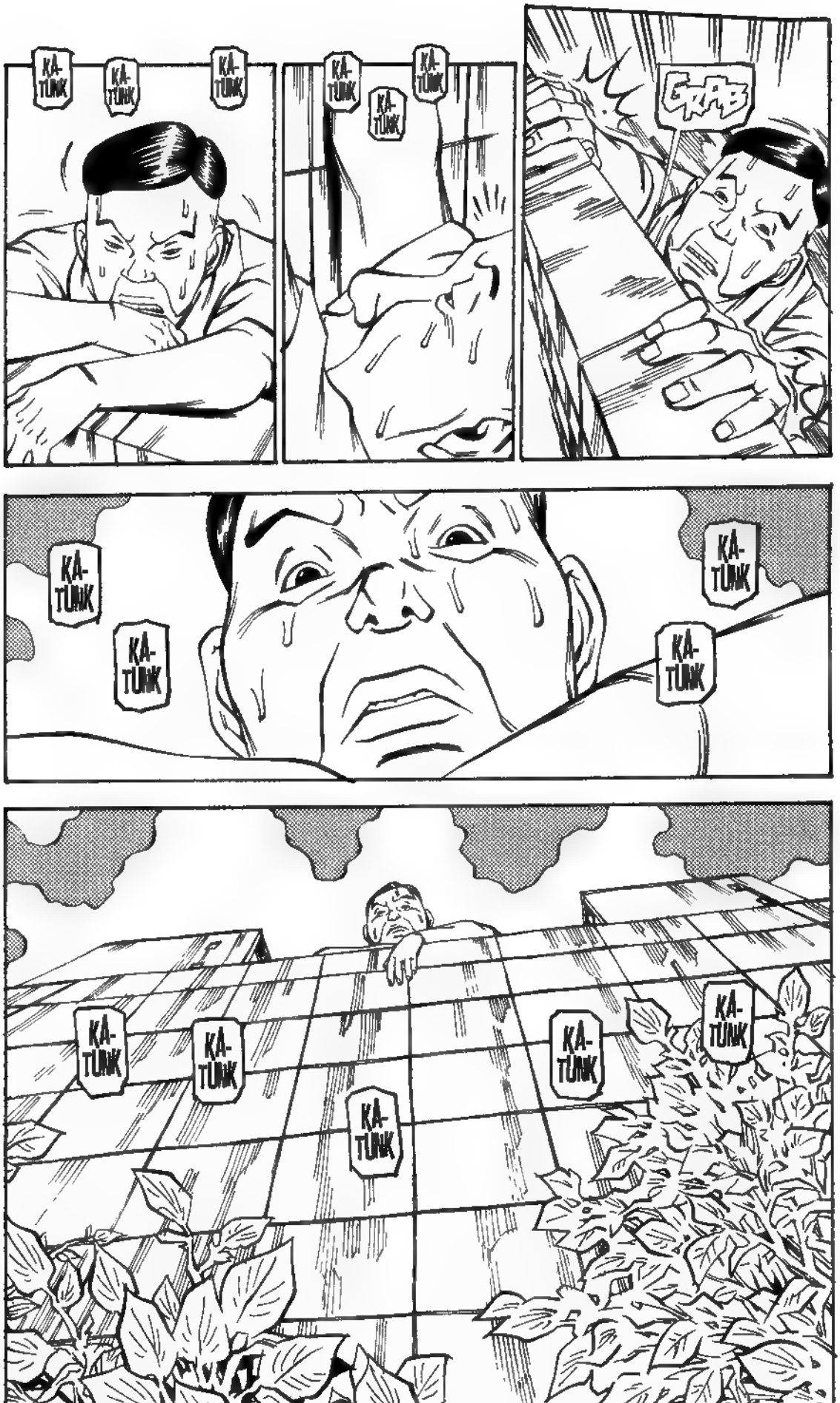
Gasp!
Gasp!
Gasp!
Gasp!

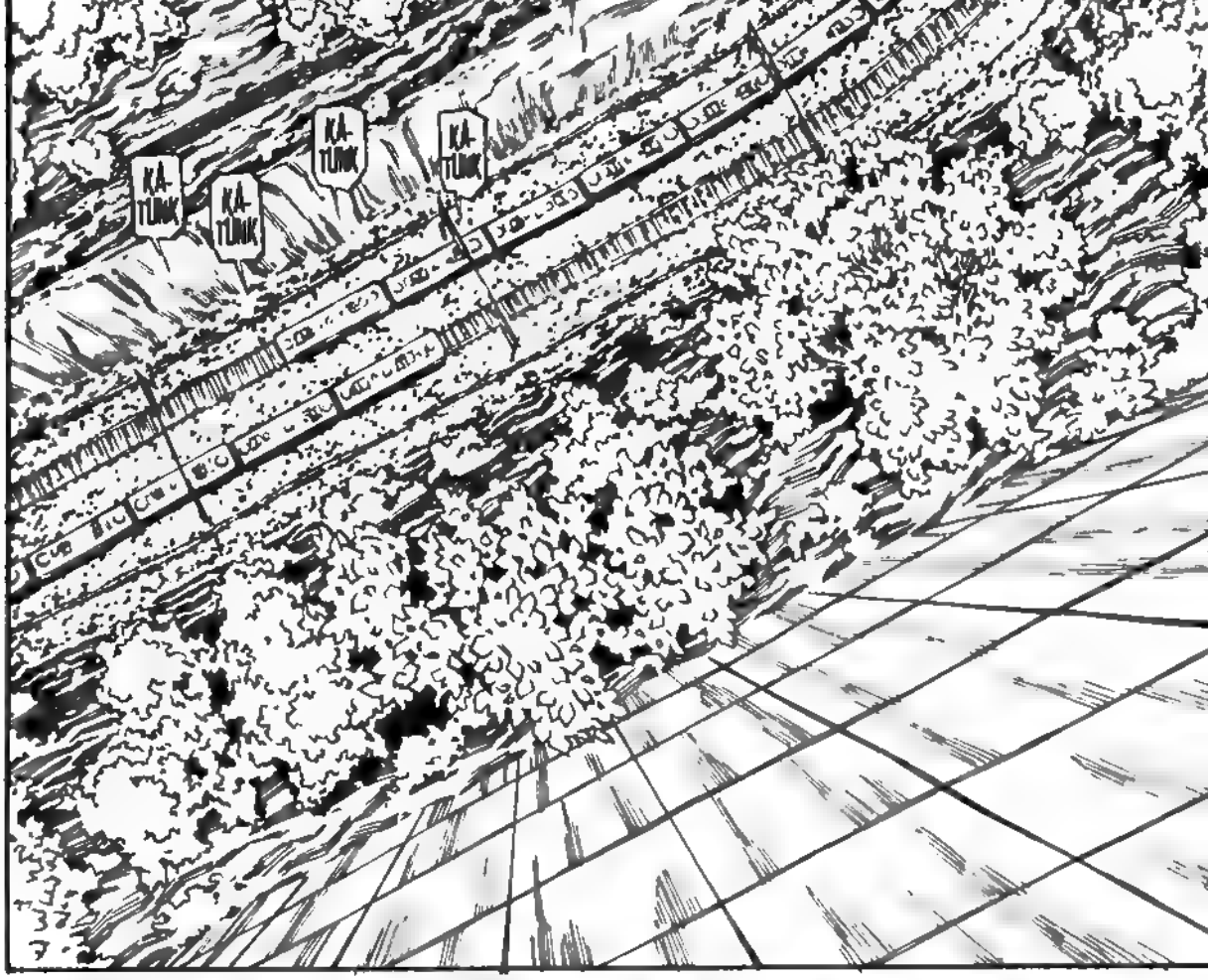
3
4
5
Gasp!
Gasp!
Gasp!
Gasp!

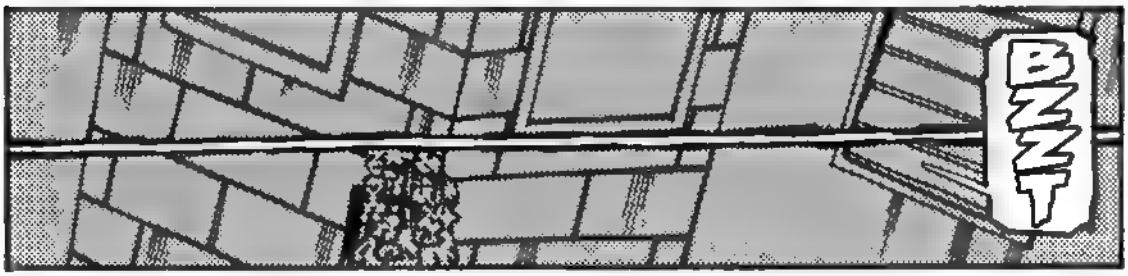
Huff !
Hah !
Huff !
Hah !

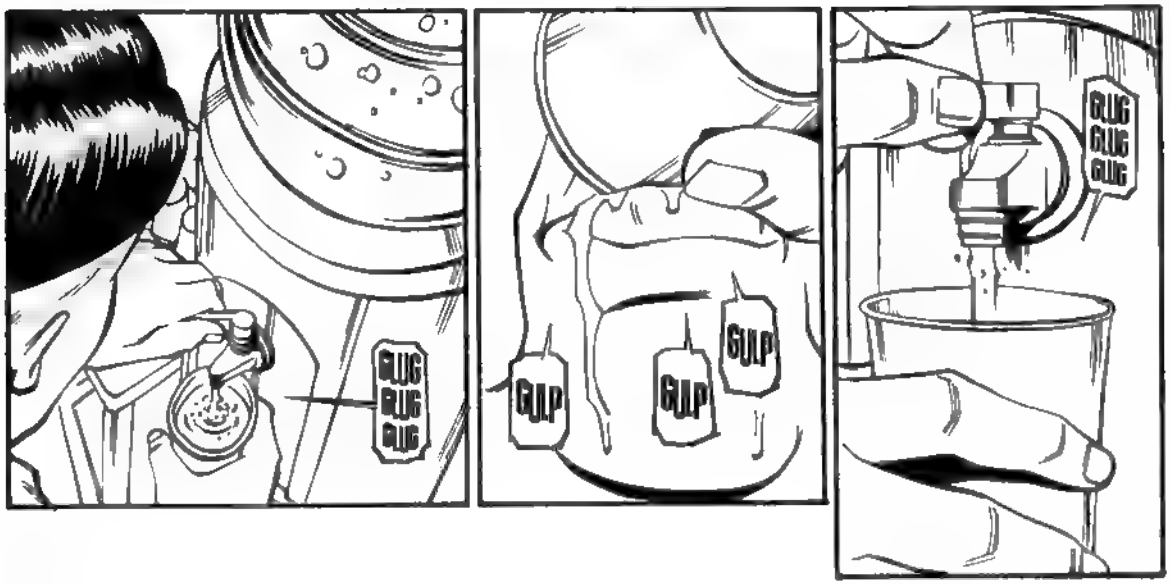


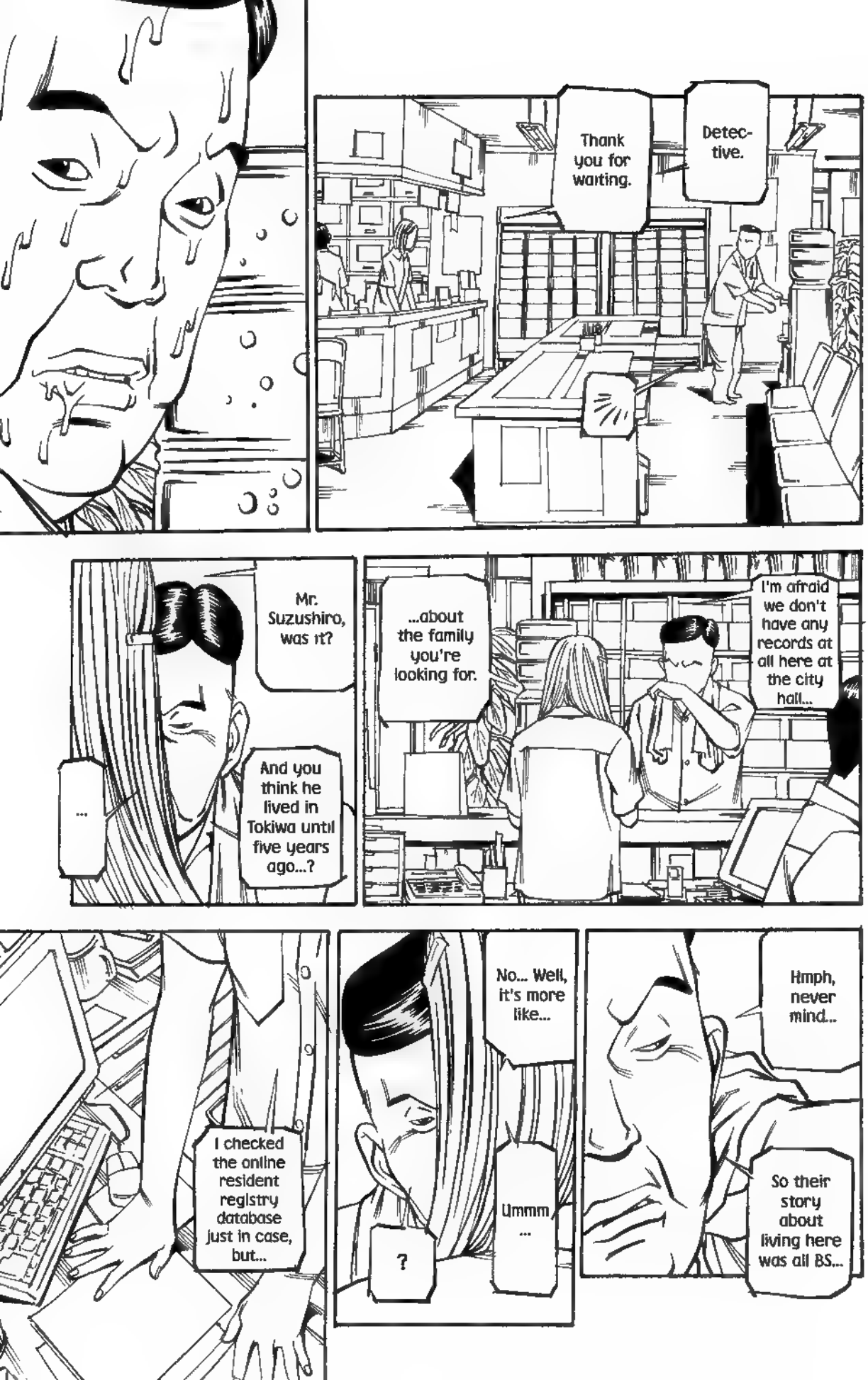
KLUNK
?!
THWK

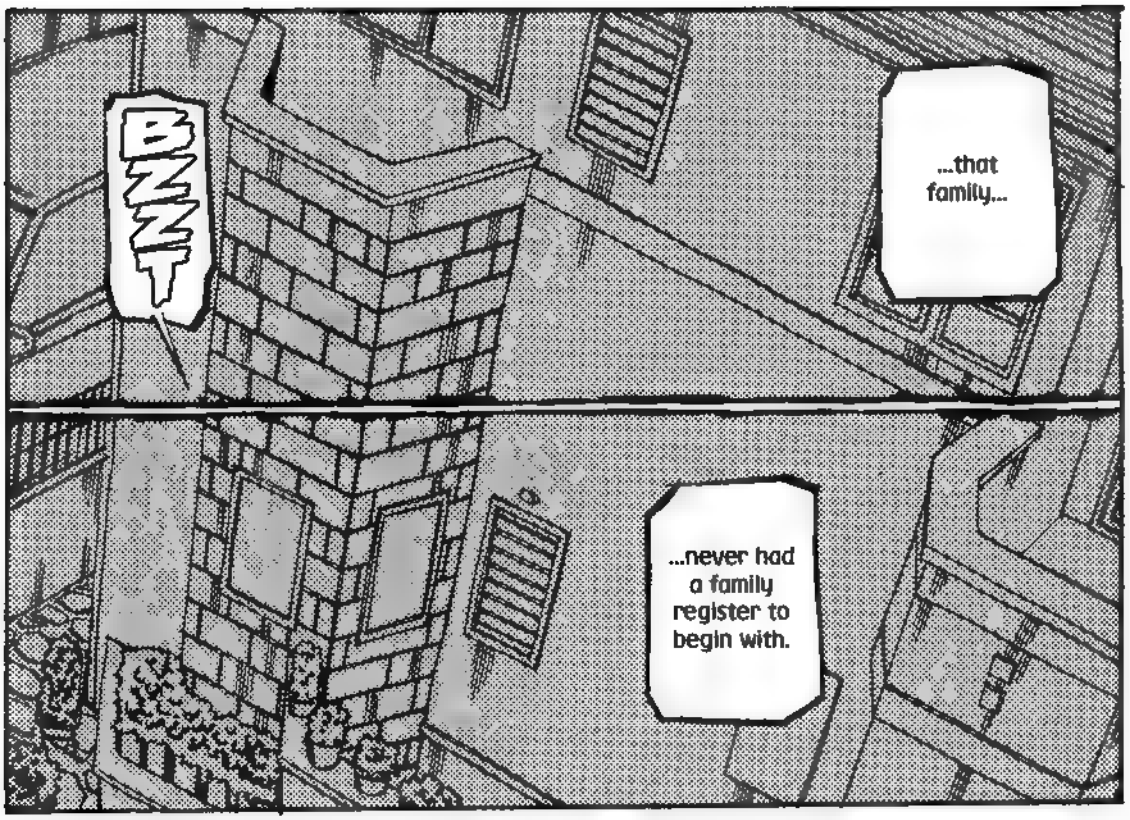

KA-TUNK
KA-TUNK
KA-TUNK
KA-TUNK
KA-TUNK
KA-TUNK
GRAB
KA-TUNK
KA-TUNK
KA-TUNK
KA-TUNK
KA-TUNK
KA-TUNK
KA-TUNK
KA-TUNK


KA-TUNK
KA-TUNK
KA-TUNK
KA-TUNK

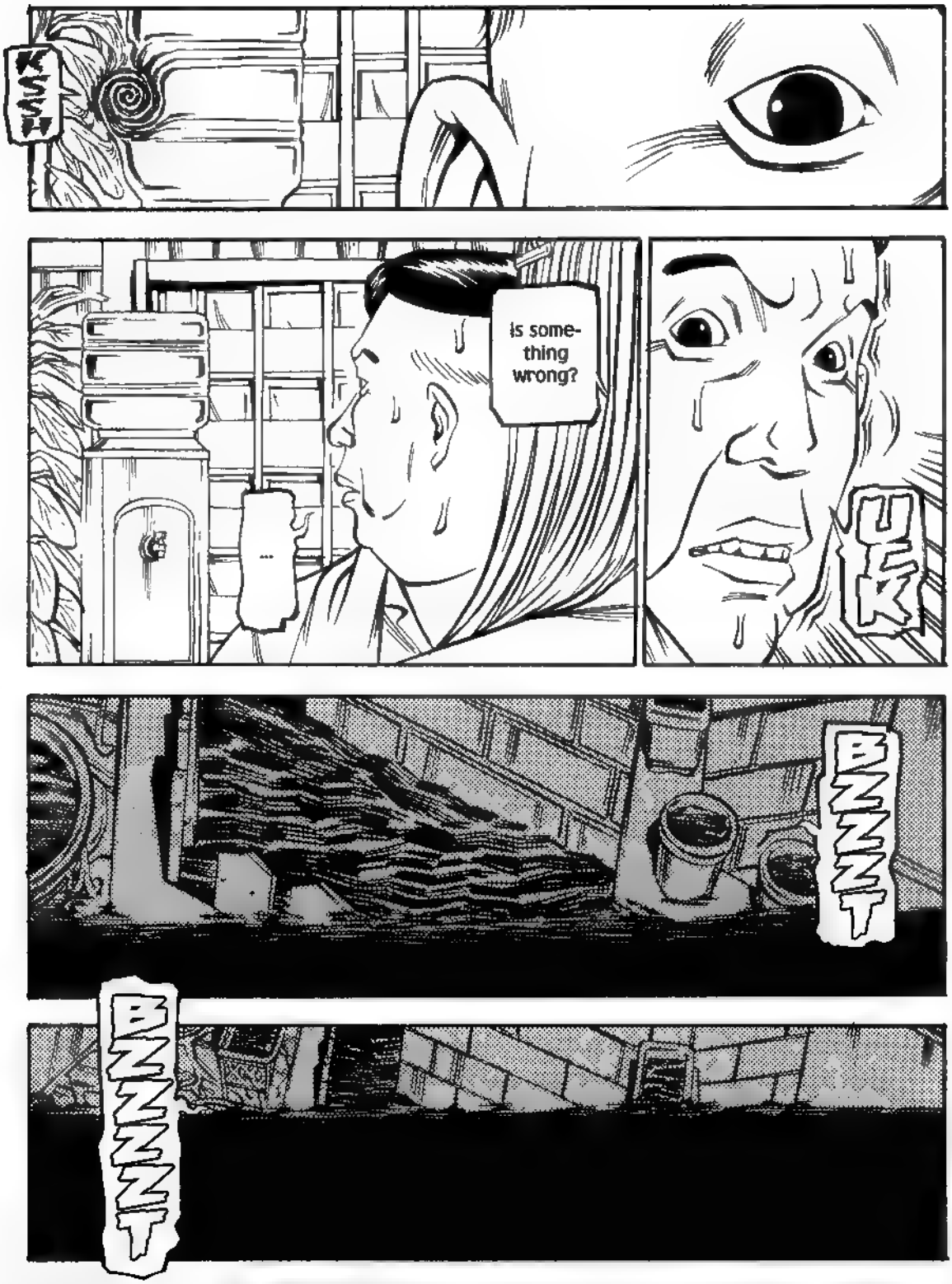

BZZT

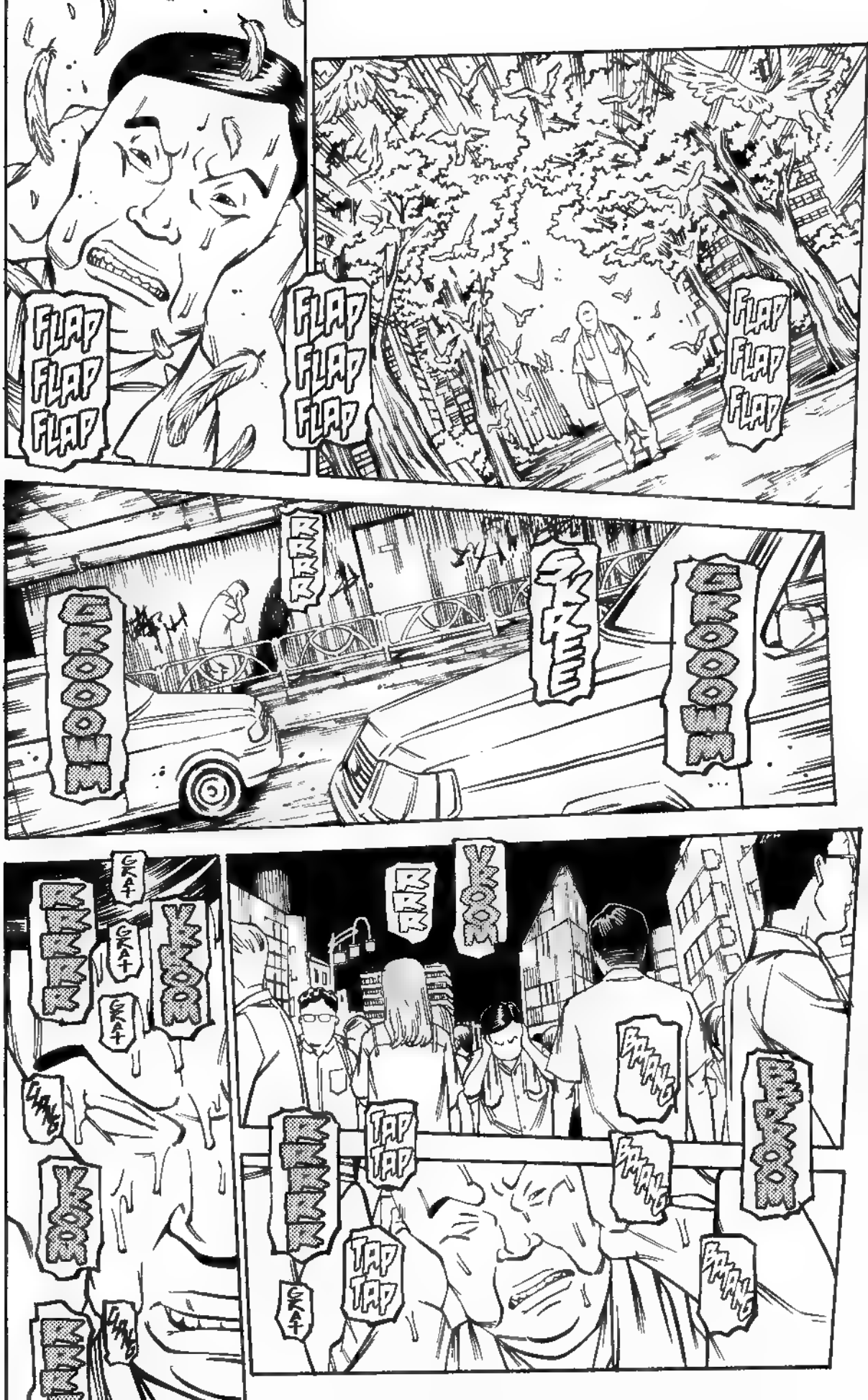

GLUG GLUG GLUG
GULP
GULP
GULP
GLUG GLUG GLUG

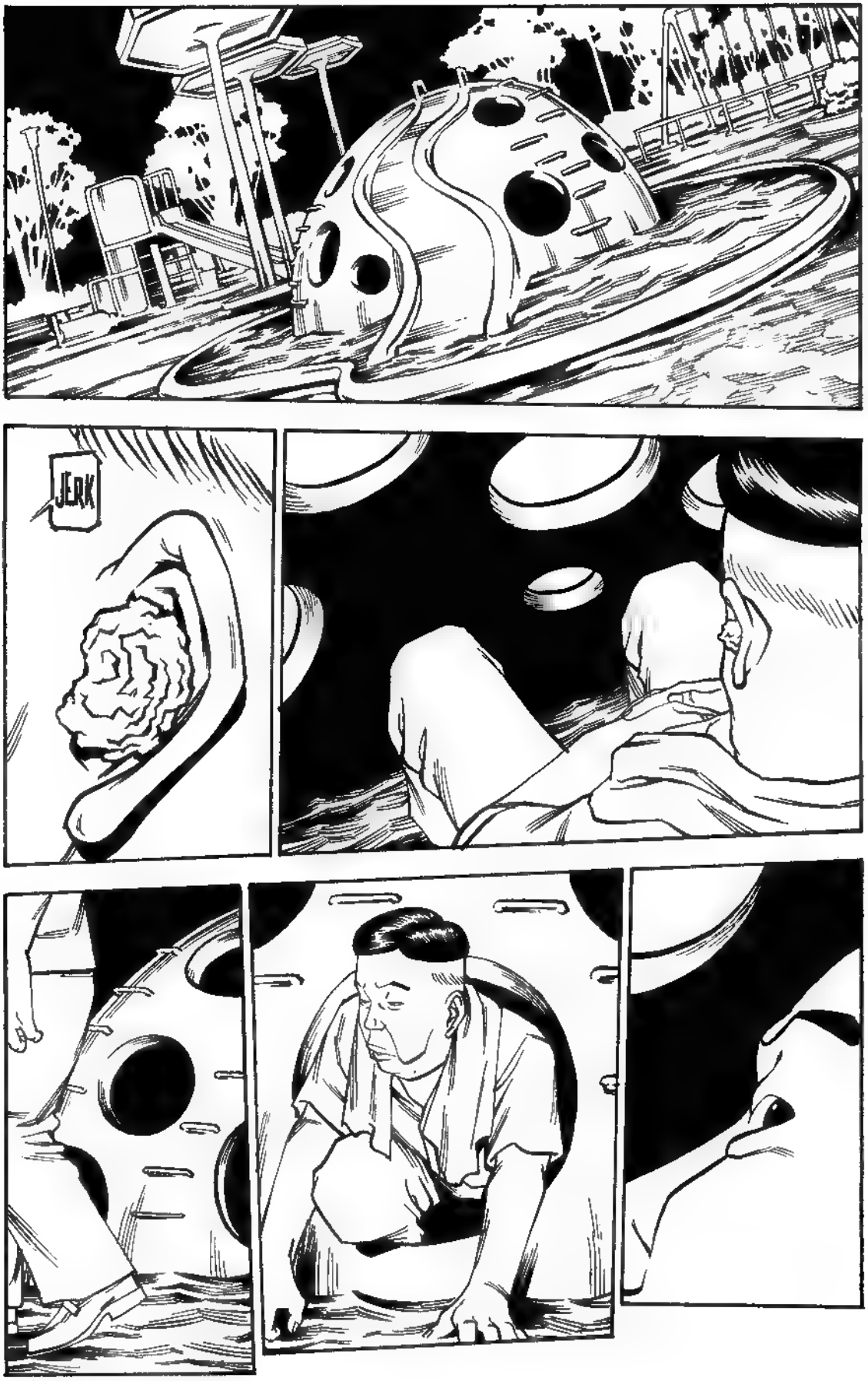

Thank you for waiting.
Detec-tive.
Mr. Suzushiro, was it?
...
And you think he lived in Tokiwa until five years ago...?
...about the family you're looking for.
I'm afraid we don't have any records at all here at the city hall...
I checked the online resident registry database just in case, but...
?
Ummm...
No... Well, it's more like...
Hmph, never mind...
So their story about living here was all BS...


BZZT
...that family...
...never had a family register to begin with.

Forgive me for asking, but...
...are you *sure* that family really existed?

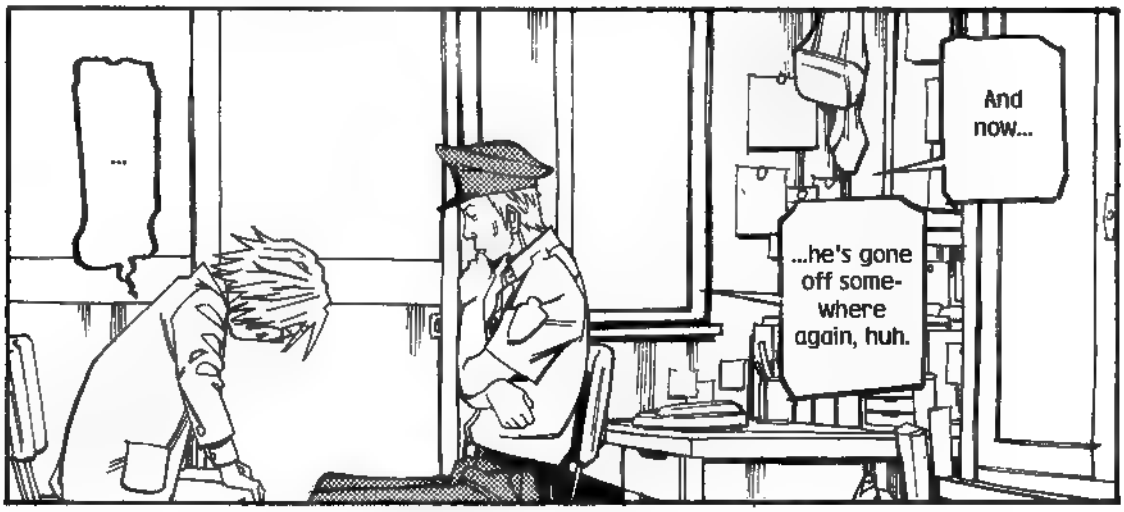

KSSH
is some-
thing
wrong?
...
UK
BZZZT
BZZZT


FLAP FLAP FLAP
FLAP FLAP FLAP
FLAP FLAP FLAP
RRR
SKEE
GNOOOM
GNOOOM
CRAK
CRAK
CRAK
KKKK
KKKK
KKK


JERK

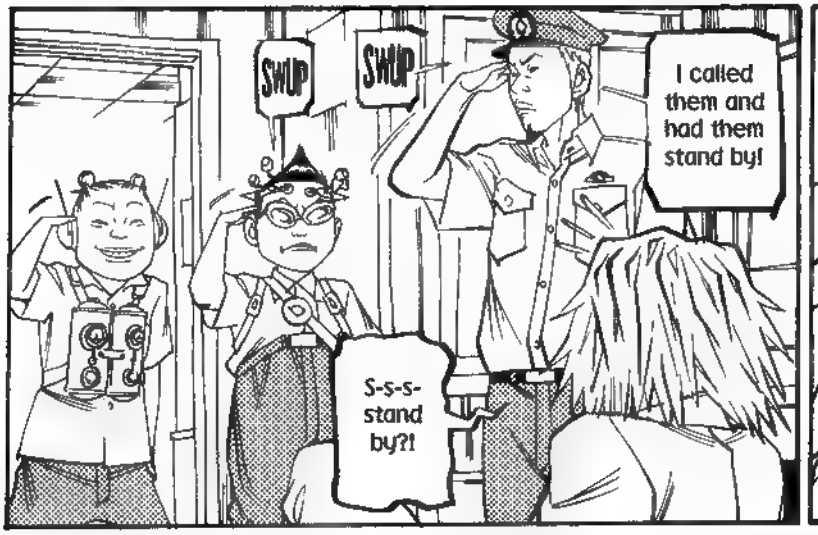
ZHK ZHK ZHK...

...
Hmm
...
H-h-he doesn't know where or how he was wandering around...
...
S-S-Sergeant Yokoi doesn't seem to recall what happened after that...


...
...he's gone off somewhere again, huh.
And now...

Dammit! How could he do this to us at a time like thiiis?!
R-r-right after what happened at the Suzushiros' house...
...he told me not to report anything to the station and just left...
A-anyway, just as Sergeant Yokoi said, the core of our case...
...doesn't just revolve around the Suzushiro family, it *is* the Suzushiro family itself.
...
He's too irresponsible!
And he's the one who got the forensics guy that disappeared involved in this...
W-what I think is, maybe...
...they faked their family register or bought one illegally...
...
B-but the Suzushiros didn't just disappear, even their family register data were erased...
How...?

That's just wrong. You have to set your heart free!
That would be totally boring!
Wrong!
CLATTER
UH


SWUP
SWUP
I called them and had them stand by!
S-s-s-stand by?!

W-what are you guys doing roaming around the police box?
S-s-students?!

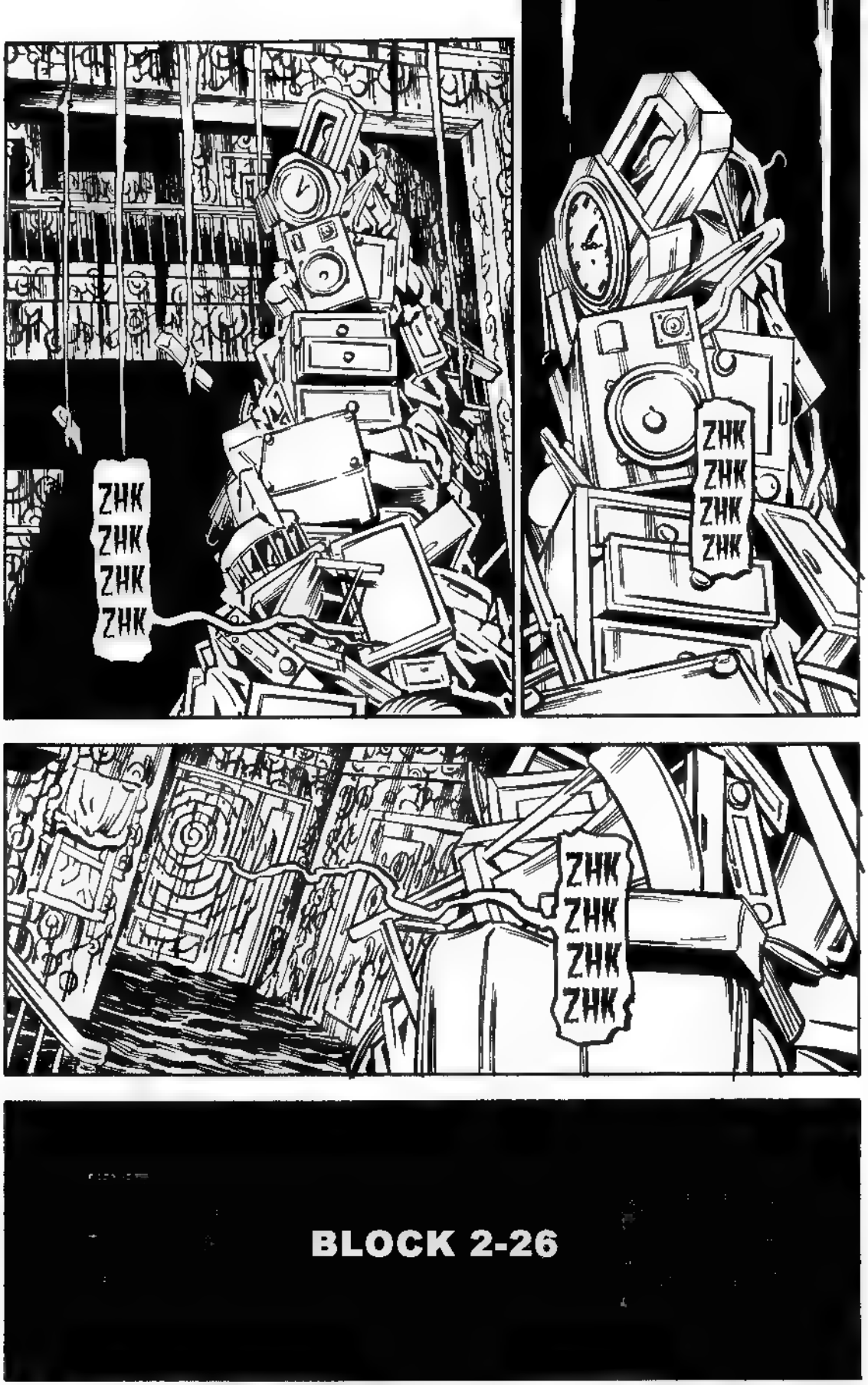
Seki, you always get so cocky when you've got some power behind you.
This case is a mystery transcending human understanding!
I've had a hunch for a while!

A conventional investigation just isn't going to cut it anymore!
...
Once another person disappeared, I knew for sure!
...will carry out a joint investigation with the "Paranormal Research Club"!
From now on, this "Soil New Town Police Box"...
SLAP
Whoa ...

SOIL
Block 2-25 [End]

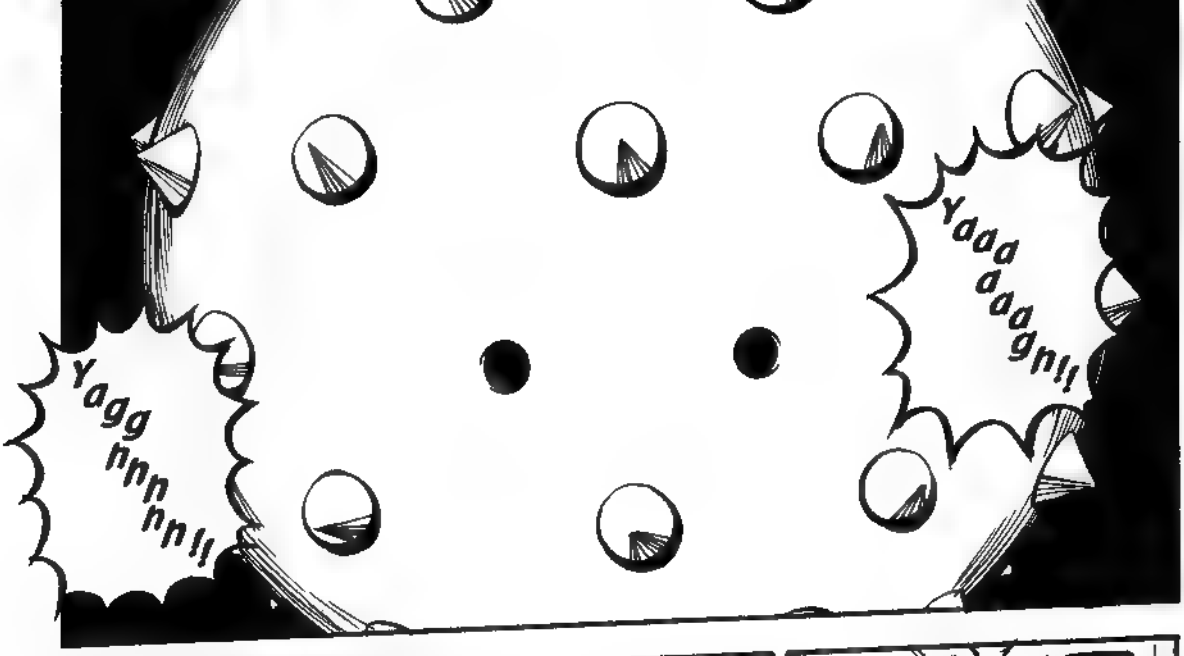
SOIL

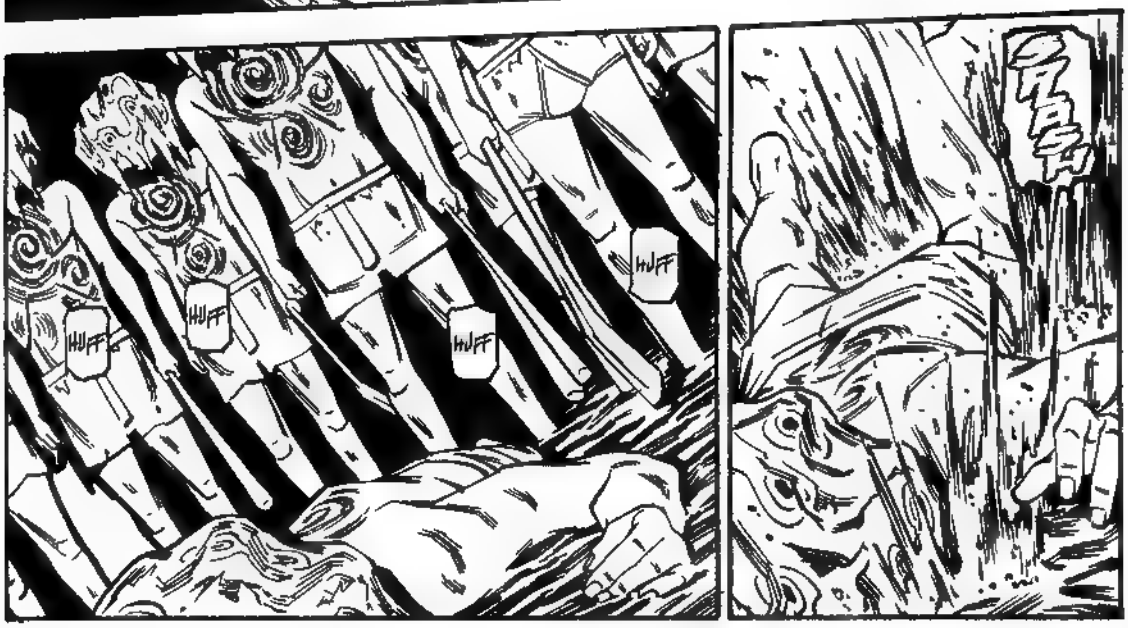
Block 2-26 [Uzbekistan]

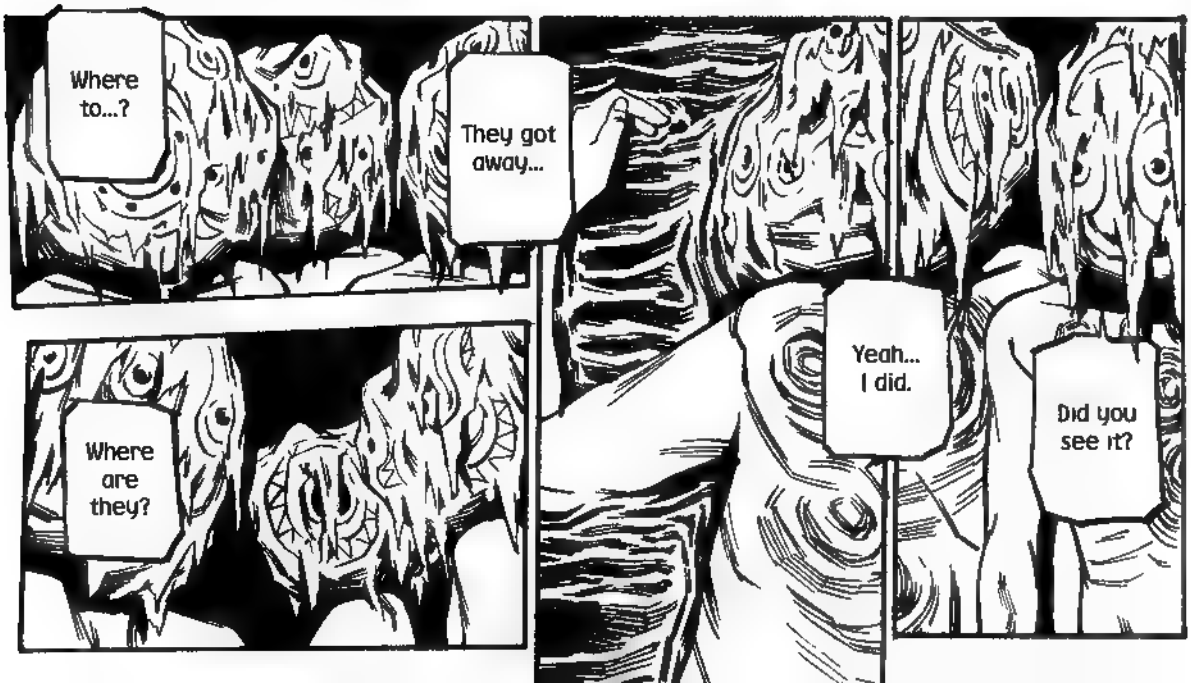


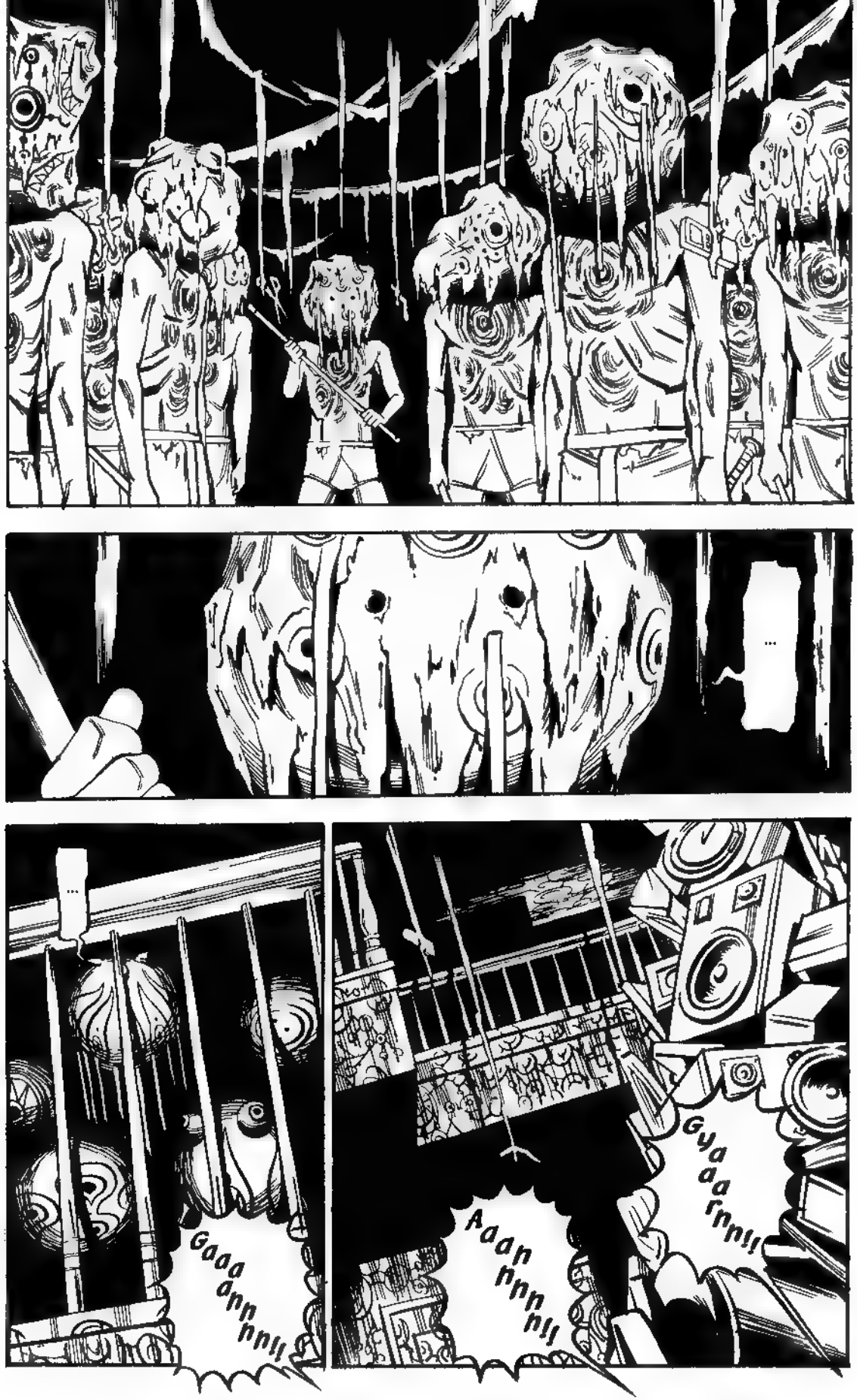
BLOCK 2-26

Yaaggnnnh!
Yaaannnnh!
It's the "aerial amoeba bodies"!
They're in his body!
Yeeooowl!
Beat them out!
Beat them out!


Yaaaaaaggnn!!
Yaggnnnnn!!

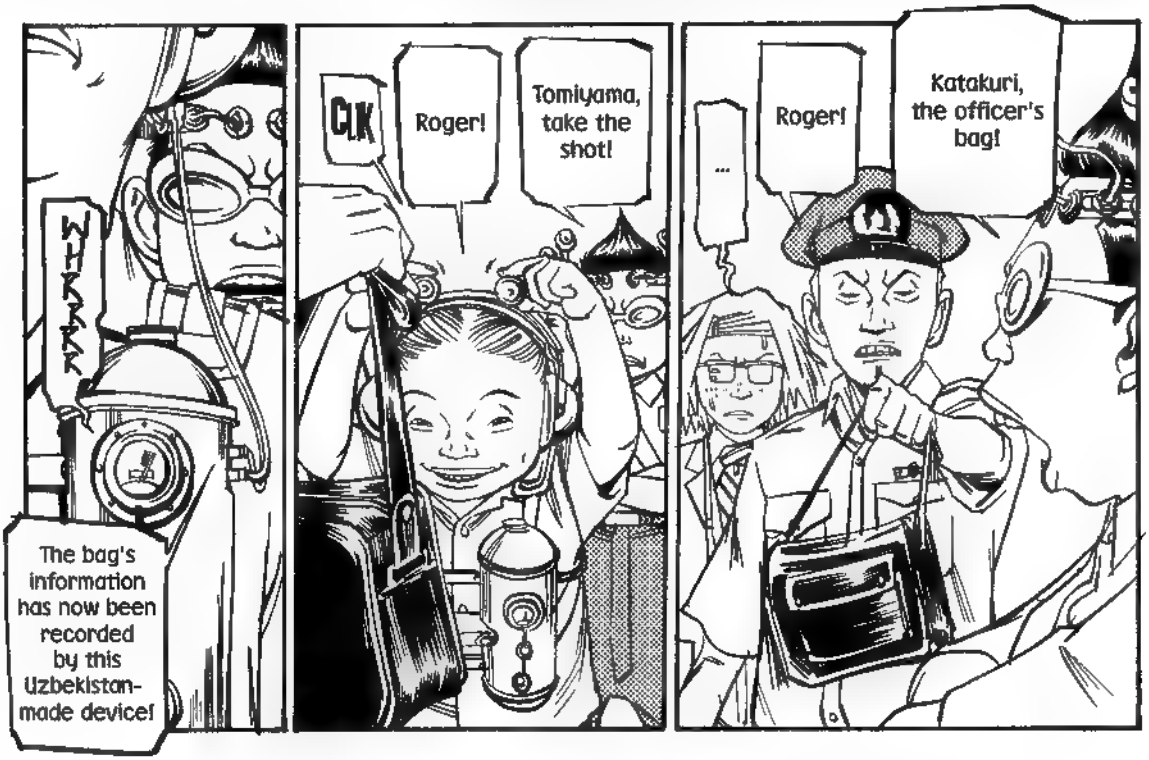

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


Where to...?
They got away...
Where are they?
Yeah... I did.
Did you see it?

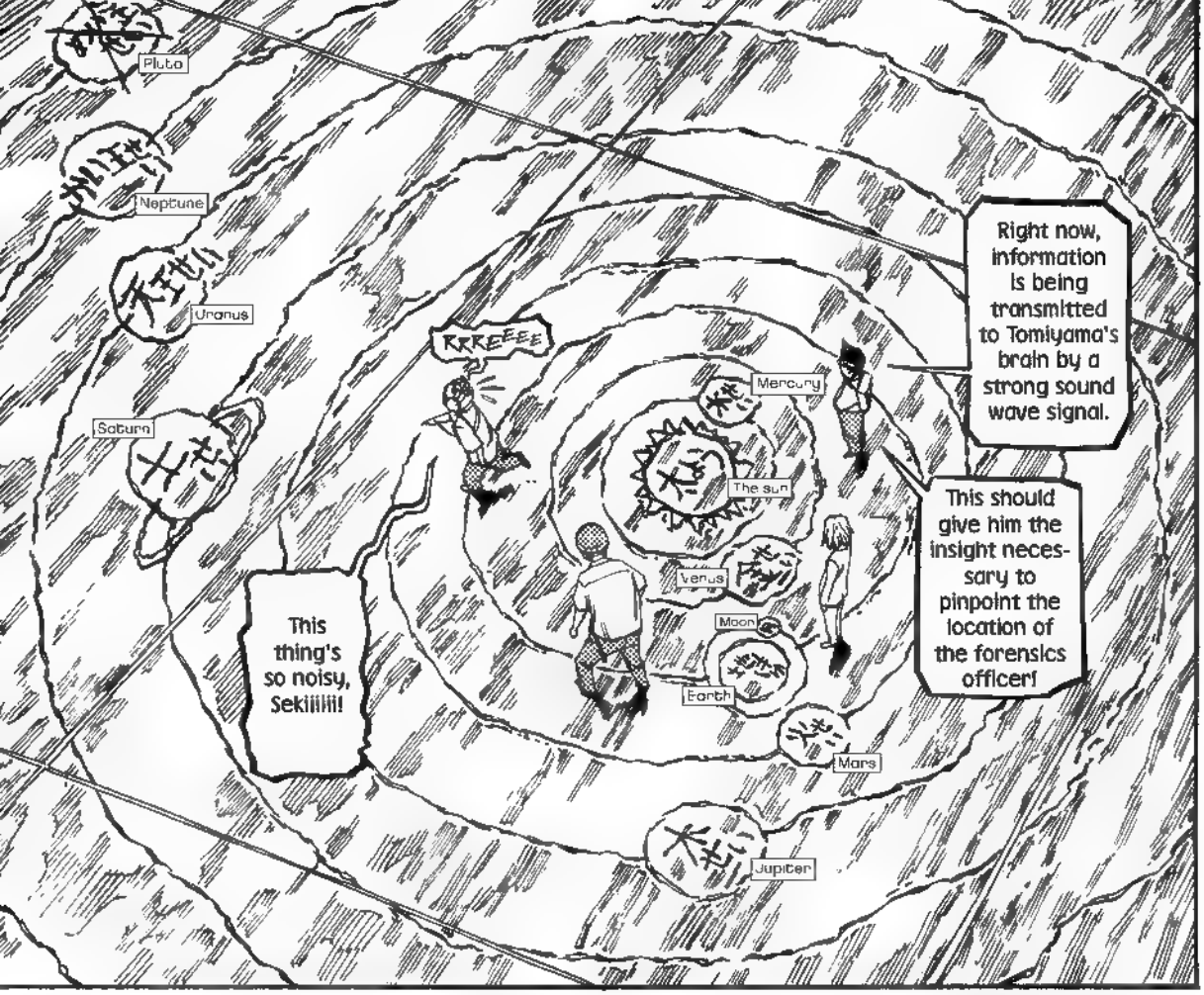

...
...
Gaaannnn!!
Aaannnn!!
Gyaaannn!!

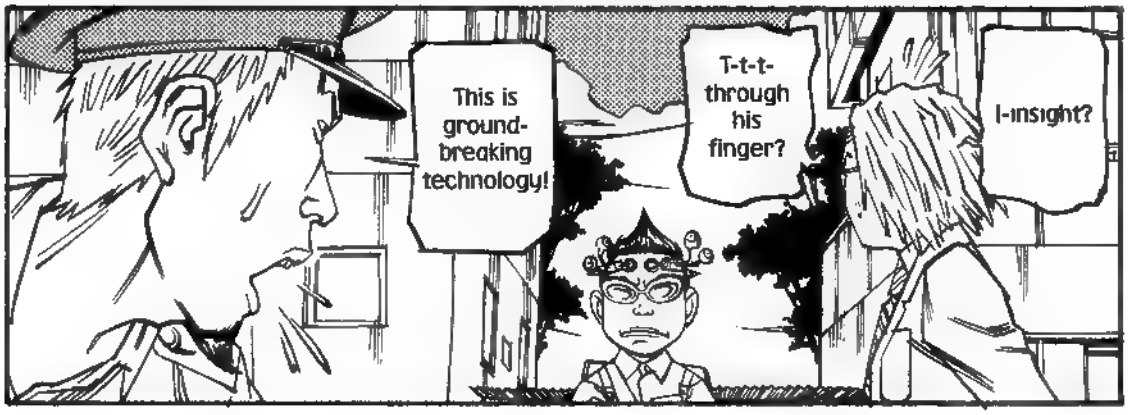
[Uzbekistan]

SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
...will now commence our joint investigation into the disappearance of Forensics Officer Yodogawa!
Now then! The Paranormal Research Club and the Soil New Town Police Box...


WHIRRR
The bag's information has now been recorded by this Uzbekistan-made device!
CLK
Roger!
Tomiyama, take the shot!
...
Roger!
Katakuri, the officer's bag!

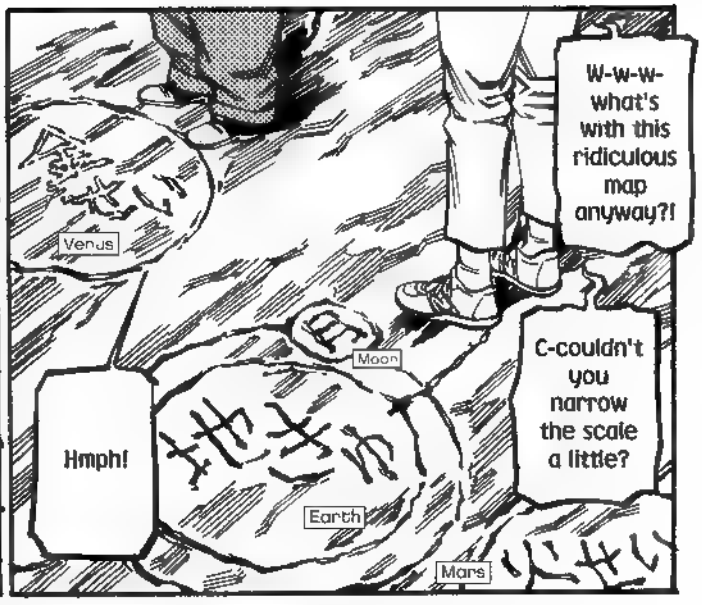
Seriously? Who told you that?
By analyzing that energy, we can tell where it originates...
Meaning we can find out where the owner is!
Really? How?
I heard that every tool contains the life energy of the person who used it.
Hey, hey! Tell me who--
FLIK
Nnnnnn-ggghhh!
RRREEEEE
I-I-I can't stand this!
RREEEE
SWAY
SWAY
I can't stay still!
RREEEEEE
Mmmmgg-hhhhh!


Pluto
Neptune
Uranus
Saturn
KRREEEE
Mercury
The sun
Venus
Moon
Earth
Mars
Jupiter
Right now, information is being transmitted to Tomiyama's brain by a strong sound wave signal.
This should give him the insight necessary to pinpoint the location of the forensics officer!
This thing's so noisy, Sekiiiiii!


This is ground-breaking technology!
T-t-t-through his finger?
I-insight?

Mnnnnn-gghhhh!
Just about everything from there is great!
That's Uzbekistan's technology for you!

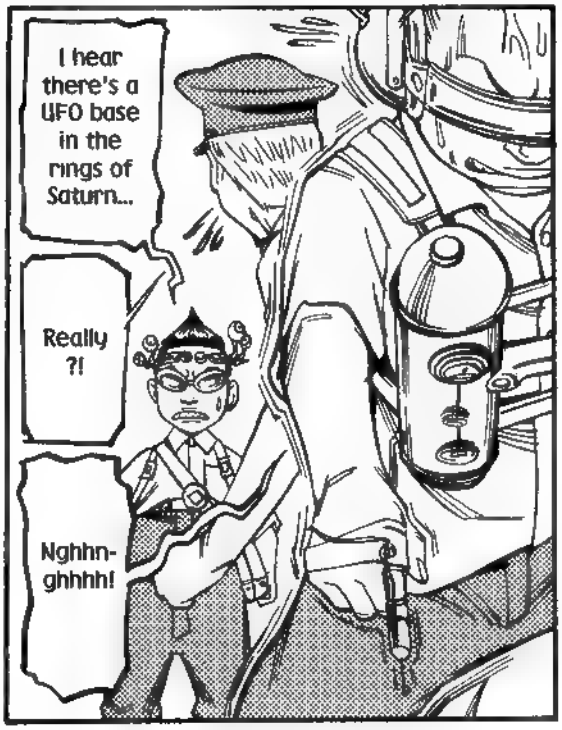
Whoever said this was the work of humans?
Spoken like a typical civil servant!
We have to expand our scope to include outer space as well!


W-w-w-what's with this ridiculous map anyway?!
Venus
Moon
Earth
Mars
Hmph!
C-couldn't you narrow the scale a little?

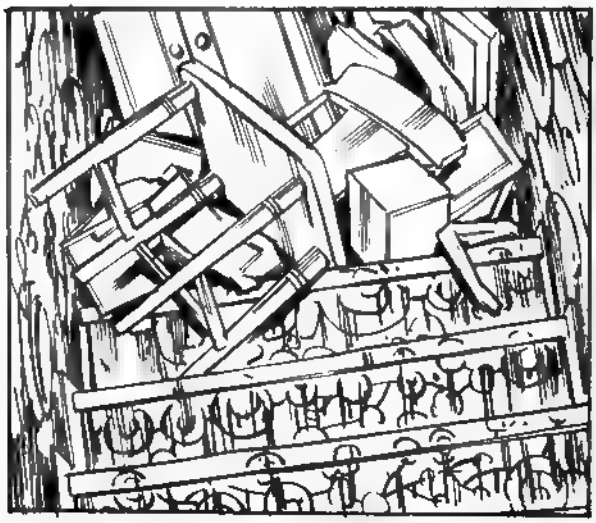
He's wandering around Saturn!
Seki!
What?!
Aggg-hhh!

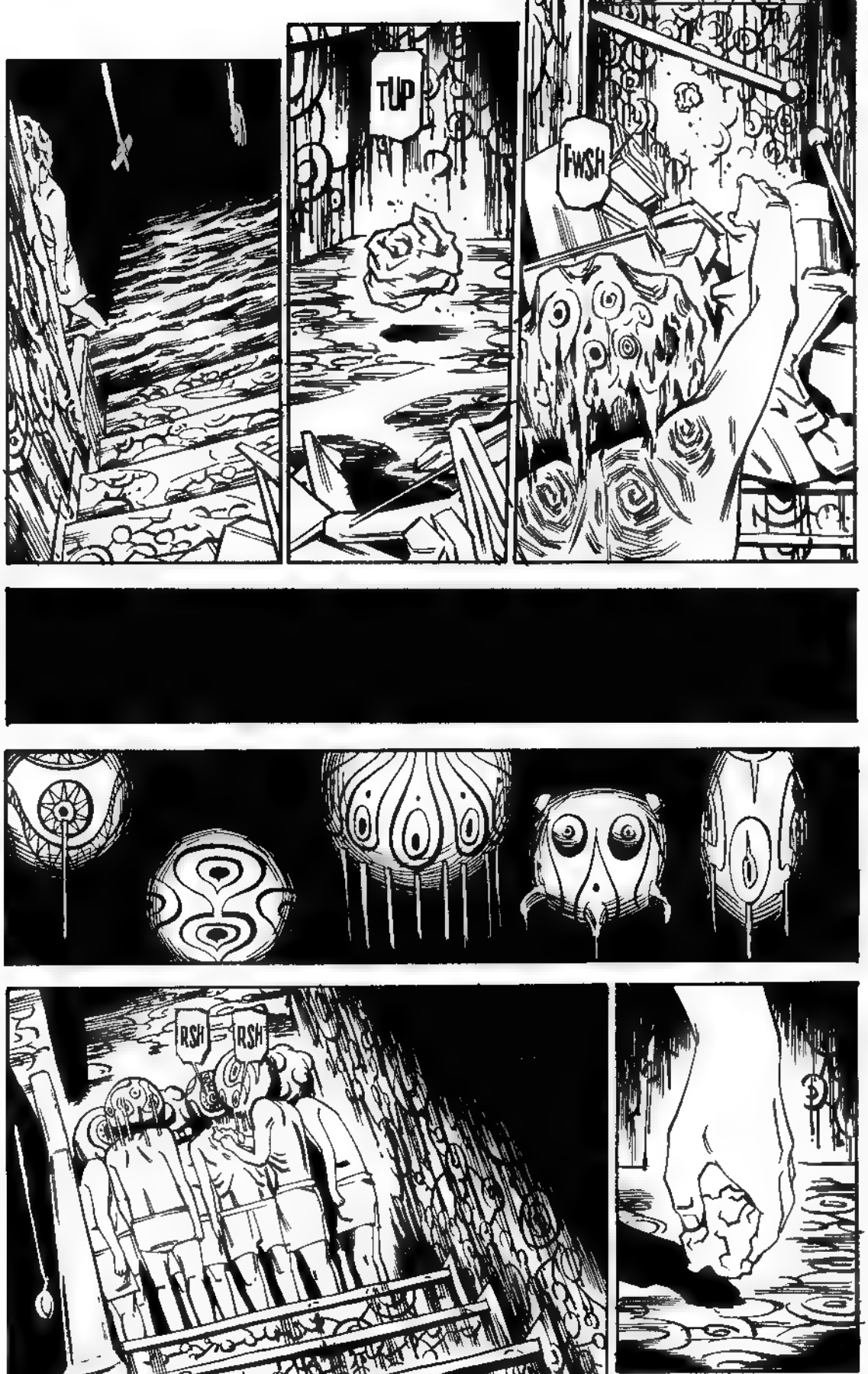
FWIP
There!

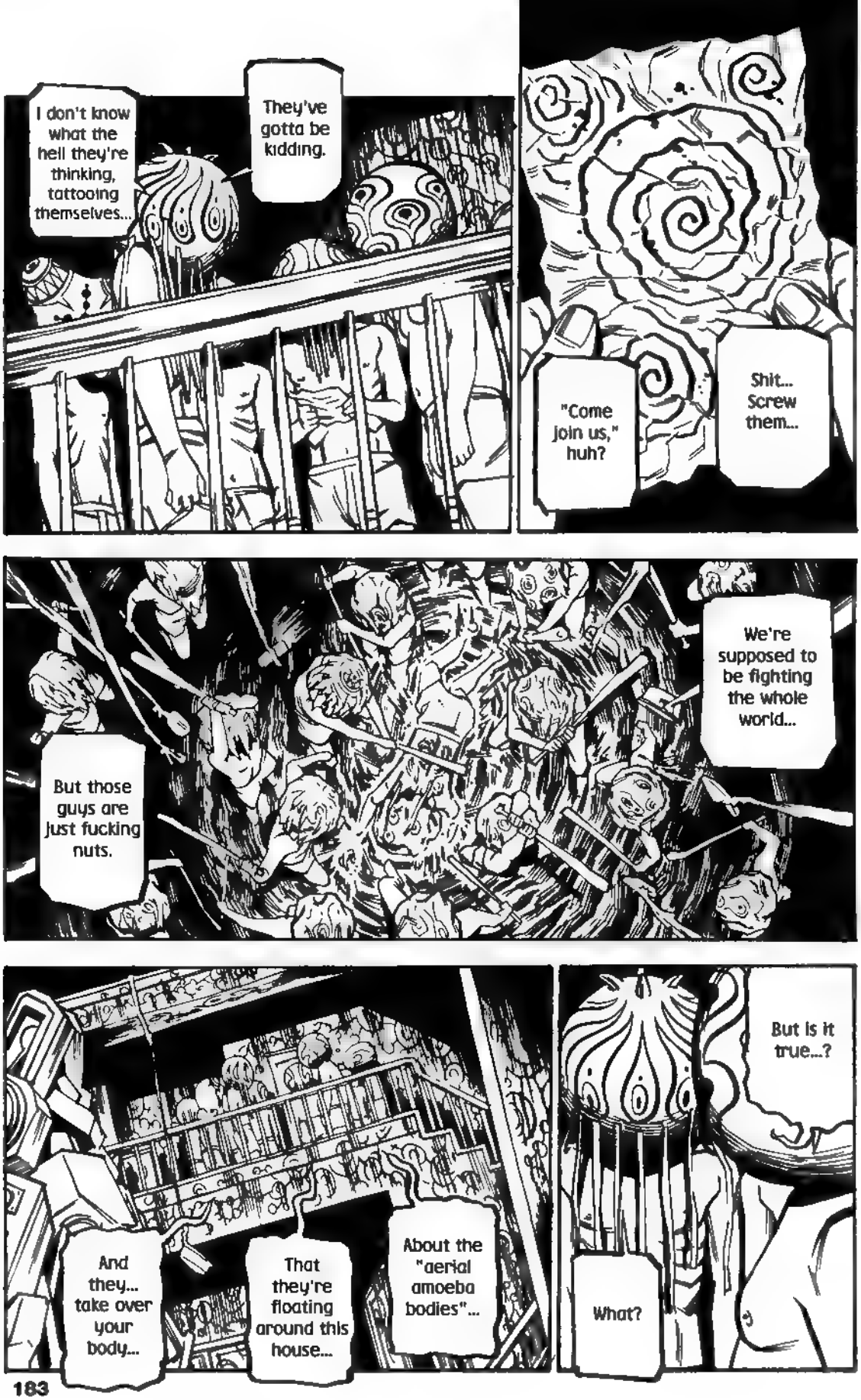
TZZZZTT


I hear there's a UFO base in the rings of Saturn...
Really ?!
Nghhn-ghhhh!

That way?
Grrrrr!




TUP
FWSH
RSH
RSH

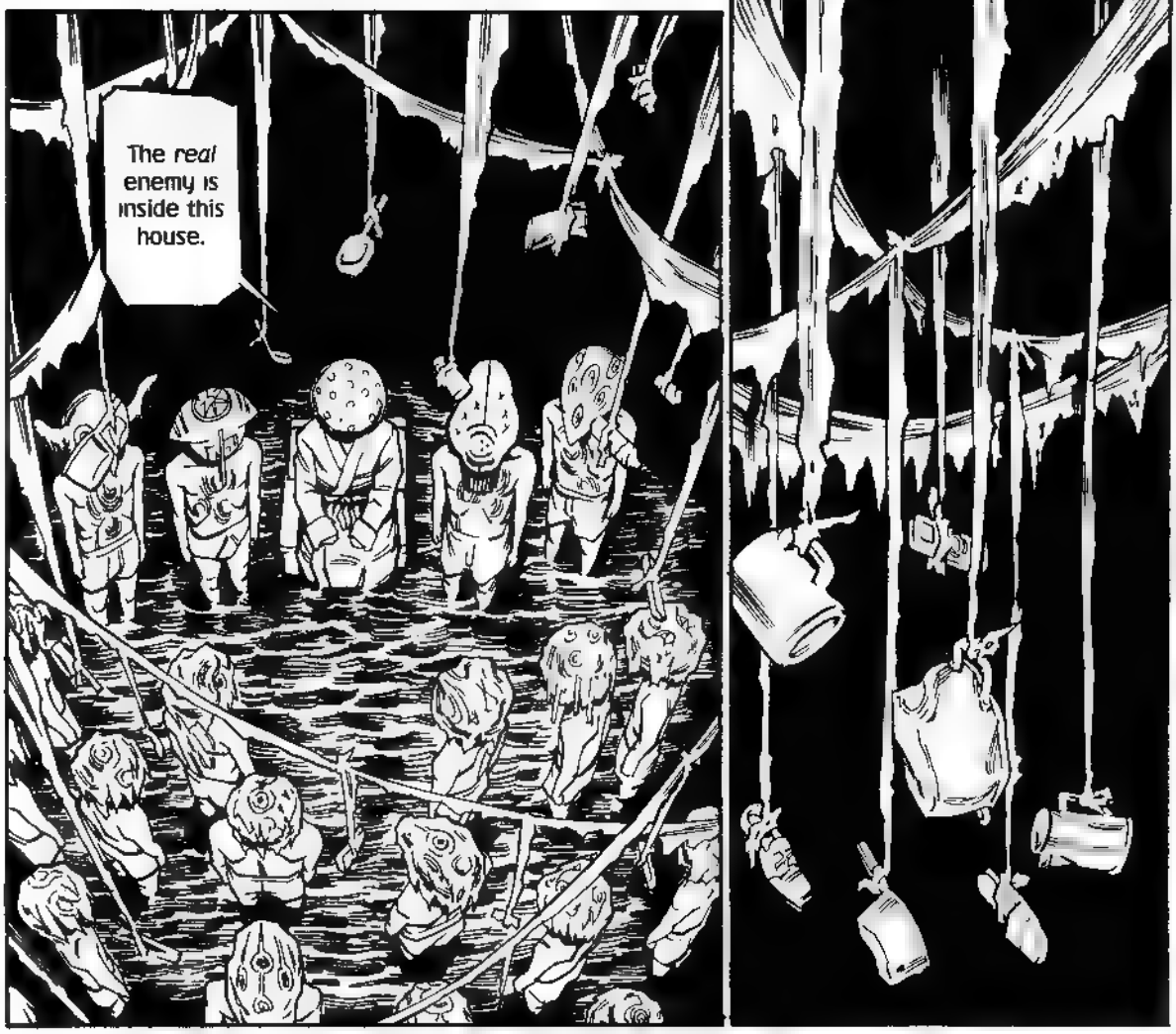

I don't know what the hell they're thinking, tattooing themselves...
They've gotta be kidding.
"Come join us," huh?
Shit... Screw them...
But those guys are just fucking nuts.
We're supposed to be fighting the whole world...
And they... take over your body...
That they're floating around this house...
About the "aerial amoeba bodies"...
What?
But is it true...?

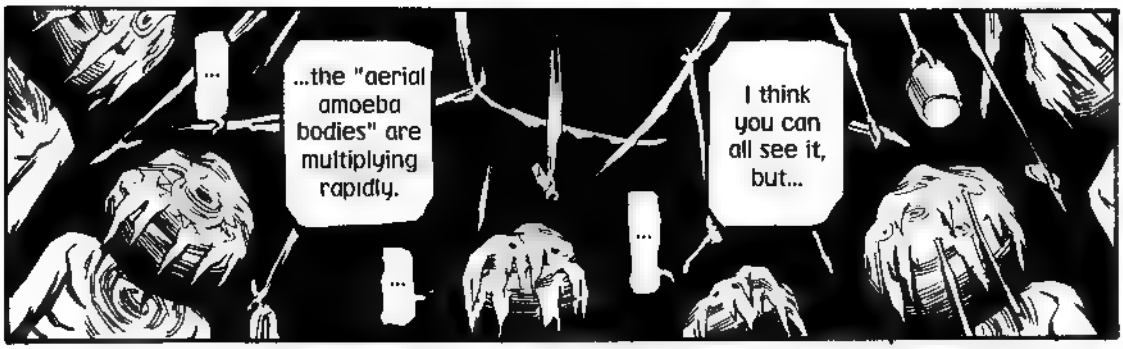
He's trying to scare the shit out of us so we can't think of anything else!
You idiot, I bet Chartreuse made all that crap up!
So you can never get your body back...
Then they get rid of your true "heart"...
People who don't understand what it means to fight...
Weak-hearted people...
Those guys took in those who tried to escape...
Like Kento...
We think with our own heads.
But we're different.

KREEEEEE
Nnnnnn-ggggghhh!
Destroy your self and communicate with the life energy.
That's the correct response, Tomiyama!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
Mnnnnn-gghhh!
I can't think with my own mind anymooore!
My head is spinning like craaaazy!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
KREEEEE
I-I-I-I'm from the Kamikawa Police Station!
SLAP
We're the Paranormal Research Club!
Hey! Who are you people?!
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF

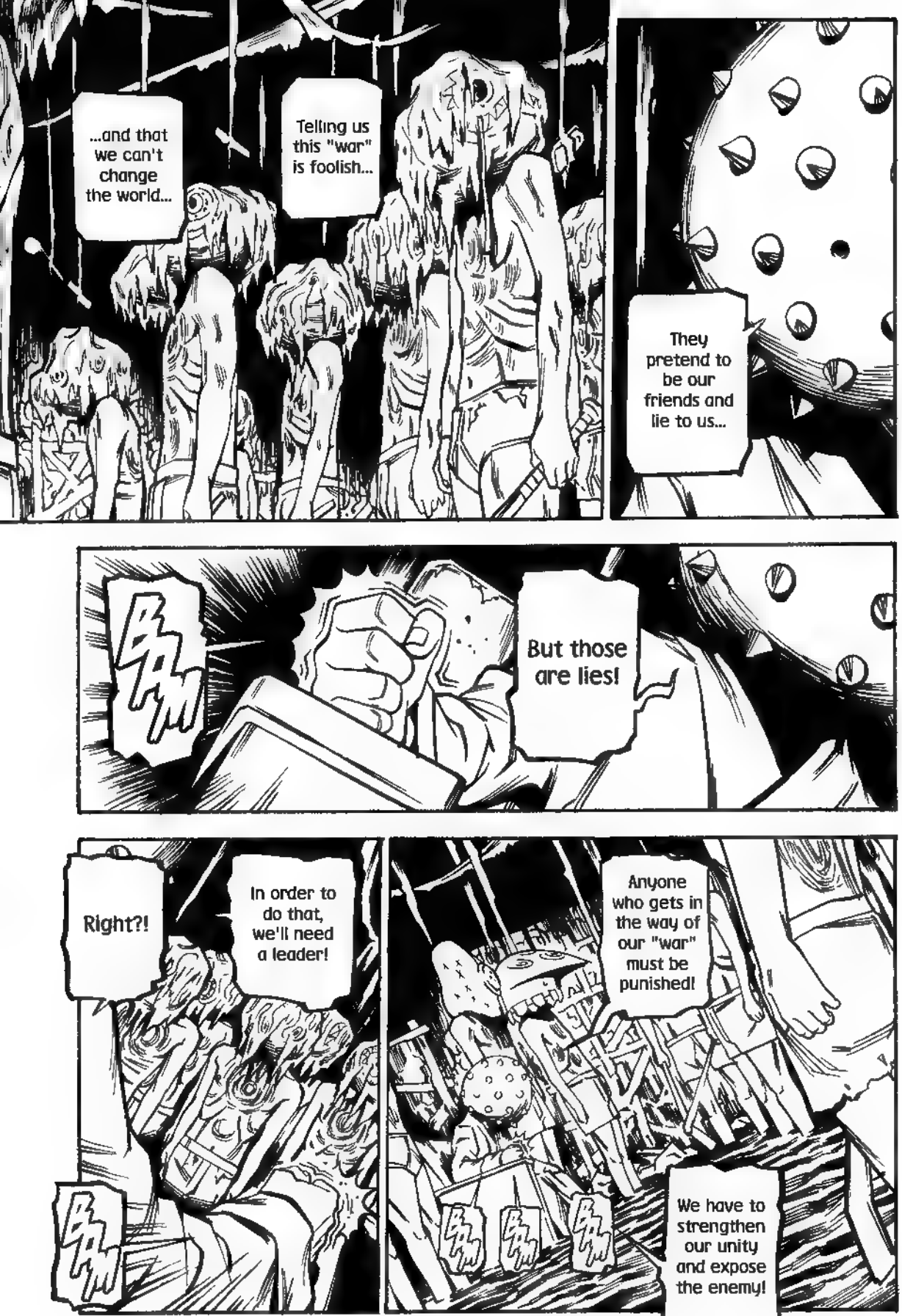
It's not like we can go hunting in space anyway, right?!
What does it matter?!
Gnnnnnnghhh!
...t-t-t-the forensics officer is somewhere in this town?!
H-hey, kid! Does this mean...
...
It's too damn noisy!
KLUNK
Ahhh, I've had it!
SWOOP
Gwaah!
I can't take it anymore!
It's dumb and it hurts too. I hate it!
To-Tomiyama ...?
Are you mad about some-thing?

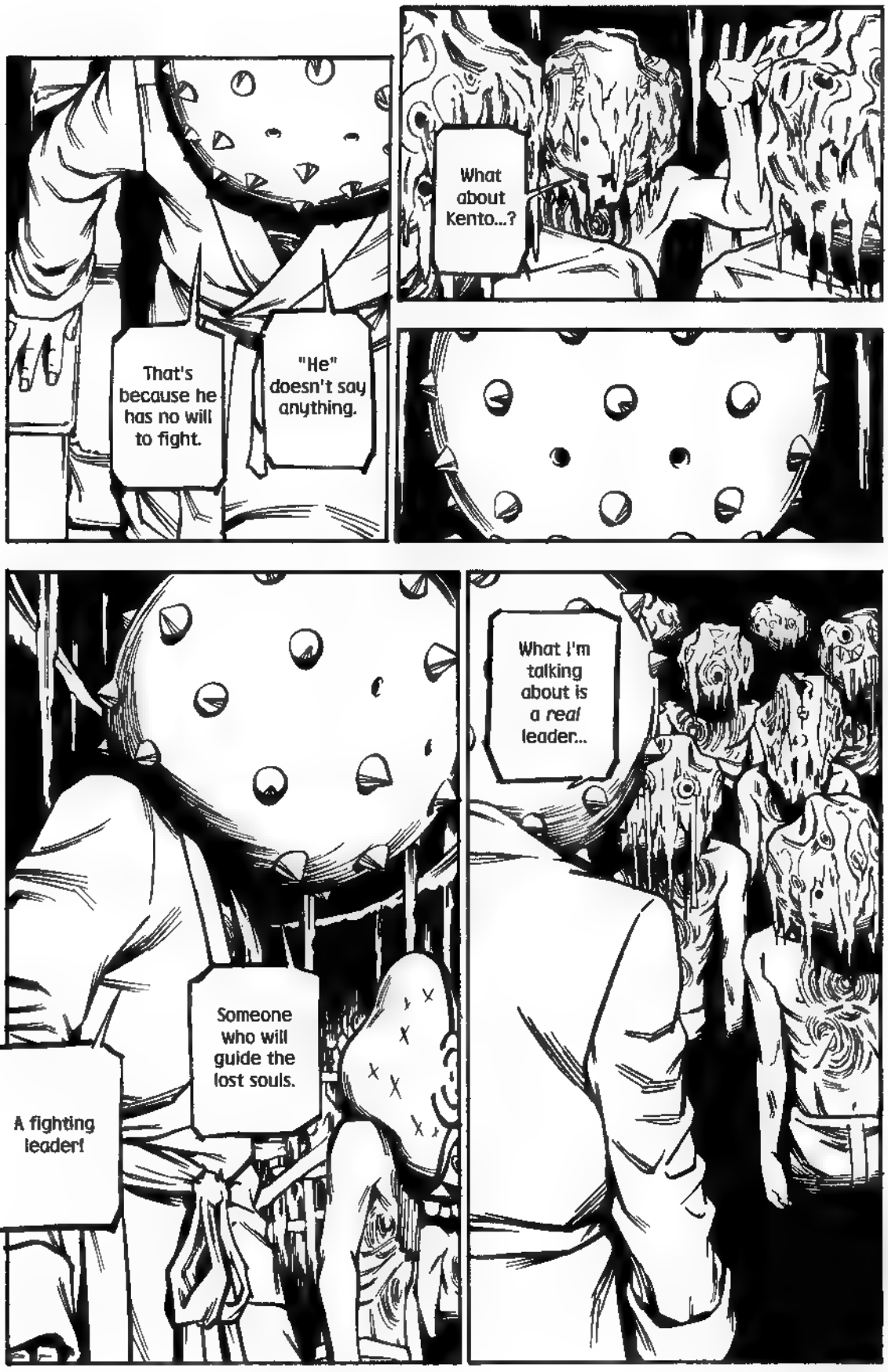
If I keep listening to this noise I might turn into an idiot like you, Seki!
Like I give a crap about the Earth!
...
T-this case is an interstellar conspiracy!
Your suffering might help save the Earth!
?
O-Officer Katakuri...
I-I'm starting to lose hope... Maybe we should try something else...
TAP
TAP
Whaaat ?!
I will save the Earth.
All right.

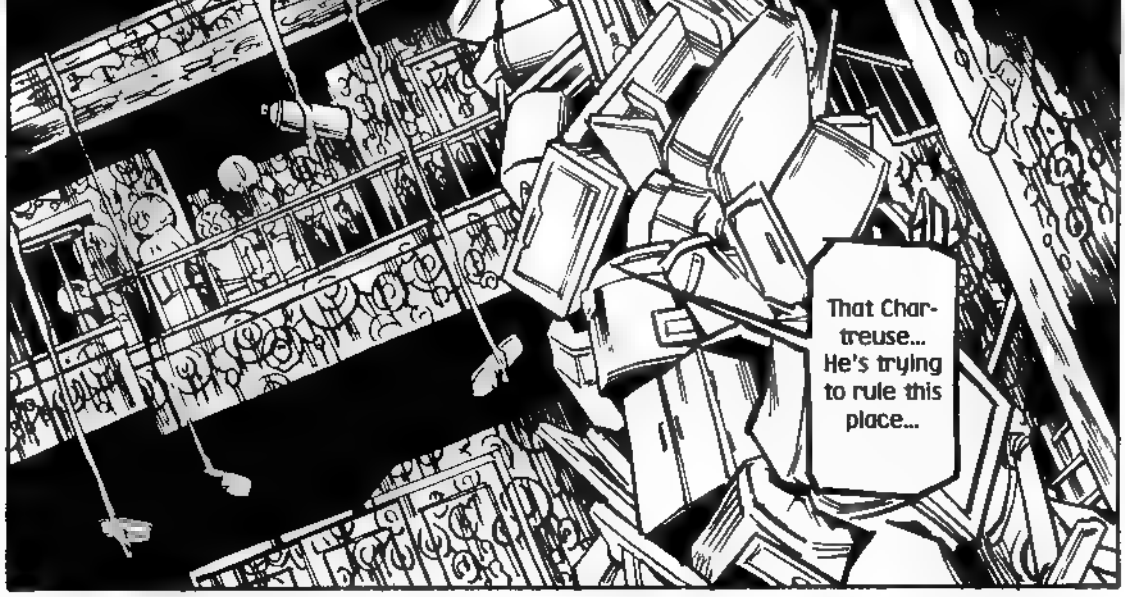

The *real* enemy is inside this house.


...
...the "aerial amoeba bodies" are multiplying rapidly.
...
I think you can all see it, but...

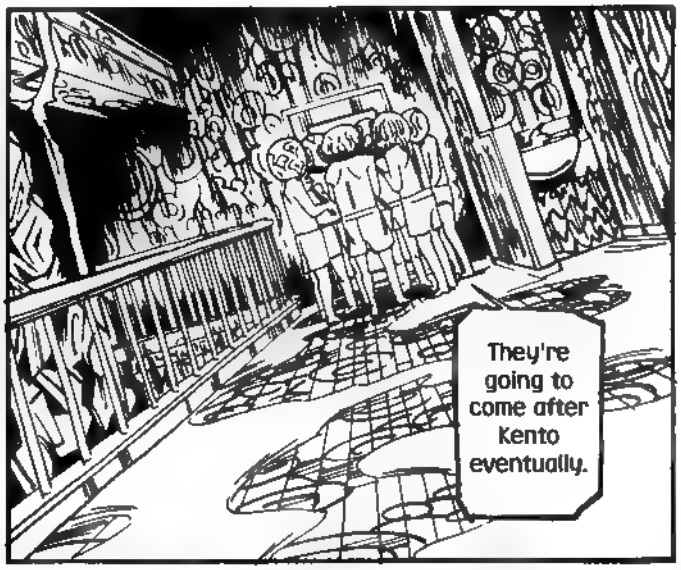
So even the "ritual" can't protect our bodies anymore.
What's worse, they're evolving...

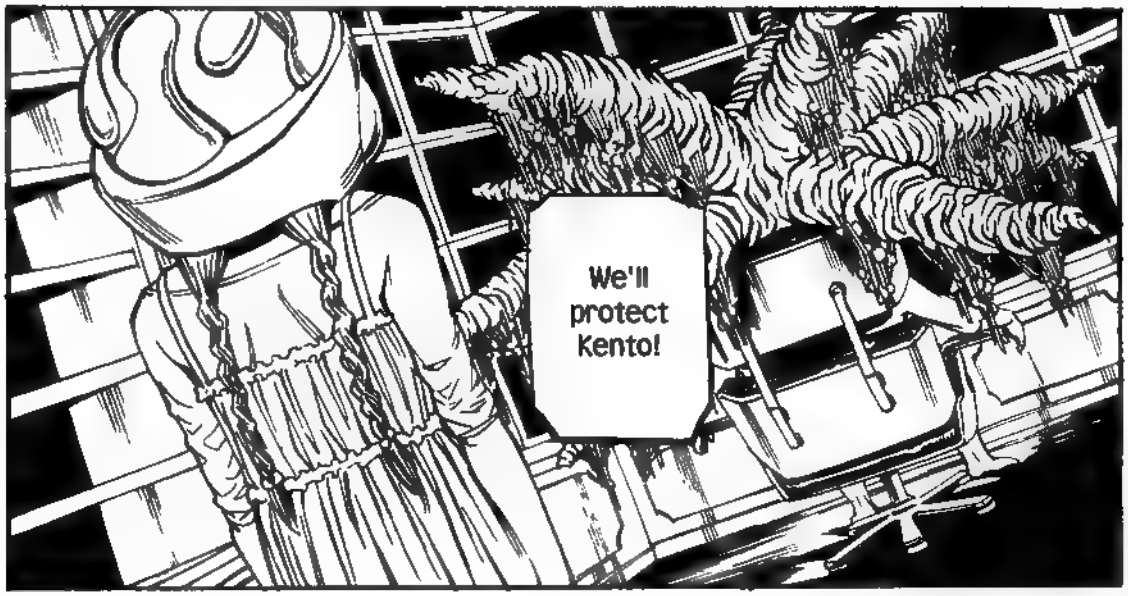

...and that we can't change the world...
Telling us this "war" is foolish...
They pretend to be our friends and lie to us...
But those are lies!
Right?!
In order to do that, we'll need a leader!
Anyone who gets in the way of our "war" must be punished!
We have to strengthen our unity and expose the enemy!

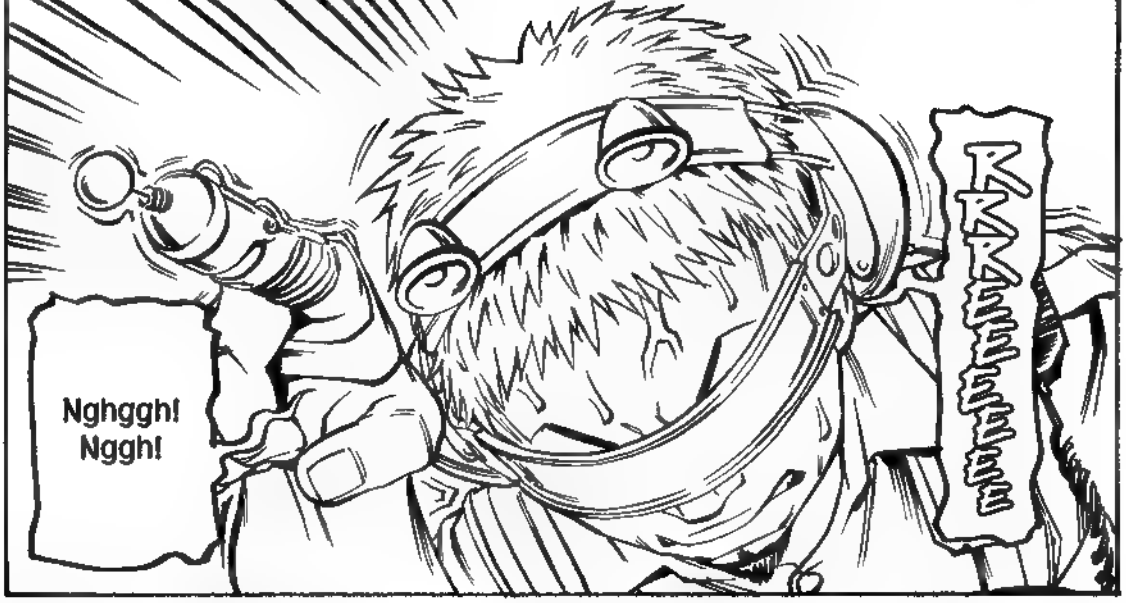

What about Kento...?
That's because he has no will to fight.
"He" doesn't say anything.
What I'm talking about is a *real* leader...
Someone who will guide the lost souls.
A fighting leader!


That Chartreuse... He's trying to rule this place...

Don't let them onto the second floor, no matter what!


They're going to come after Kento eventually.

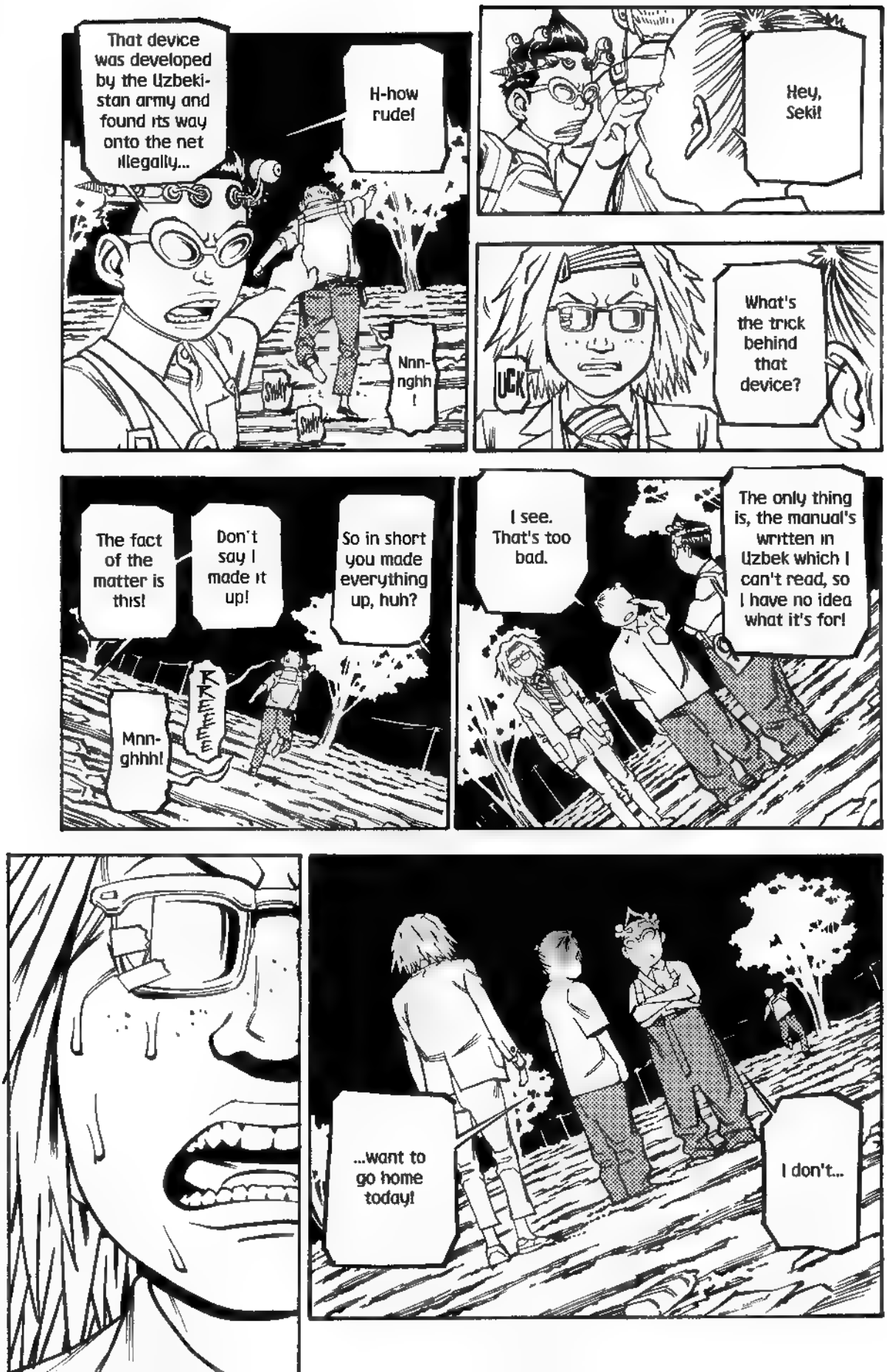

We'll protect Kento!


Nghggh!
Ngghl
KRRRRRRRR

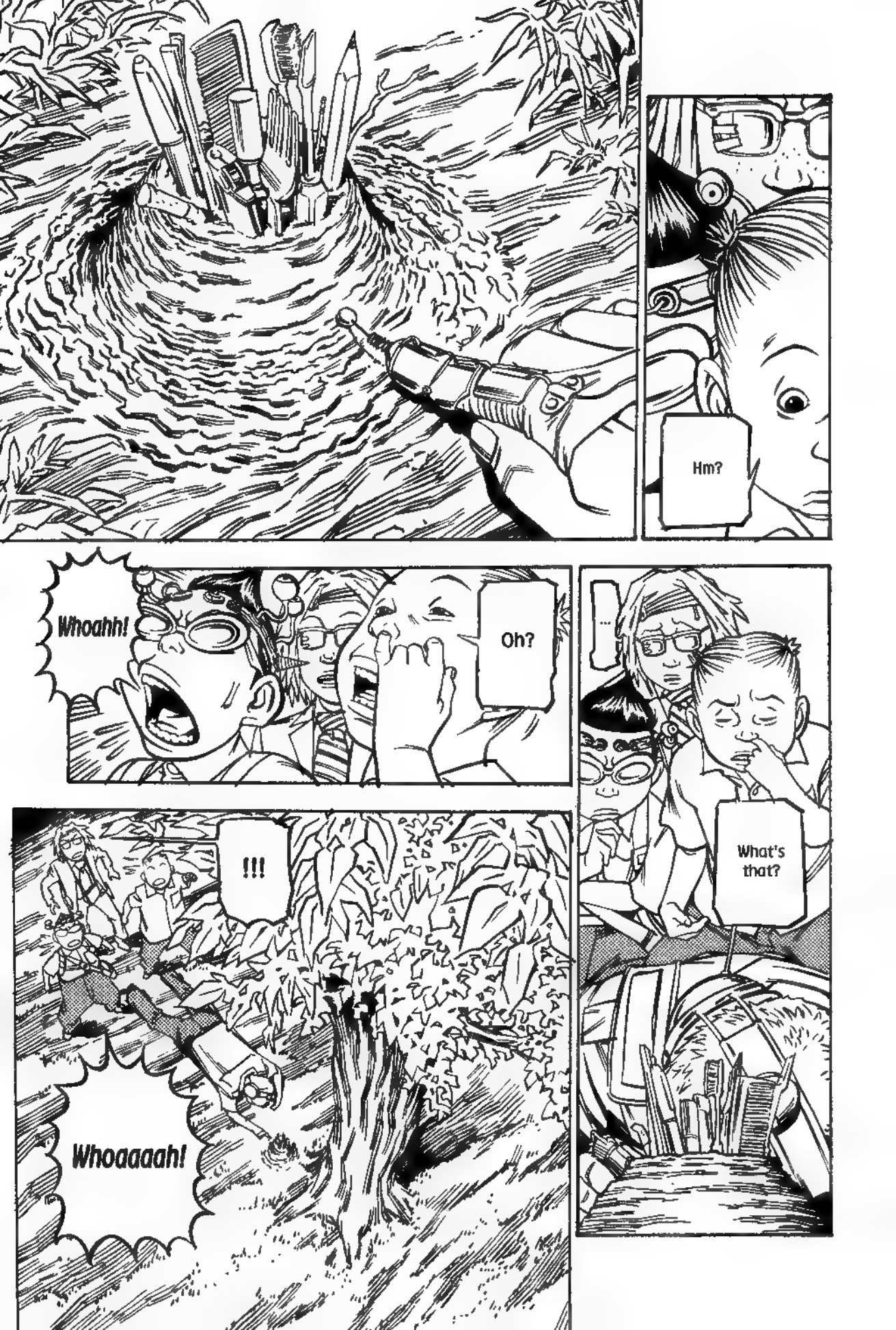
Come on, let's go home already!
KRRRRR
Hang in there, Katakuri!
You're defending the Earth!
SWAY
SWAY

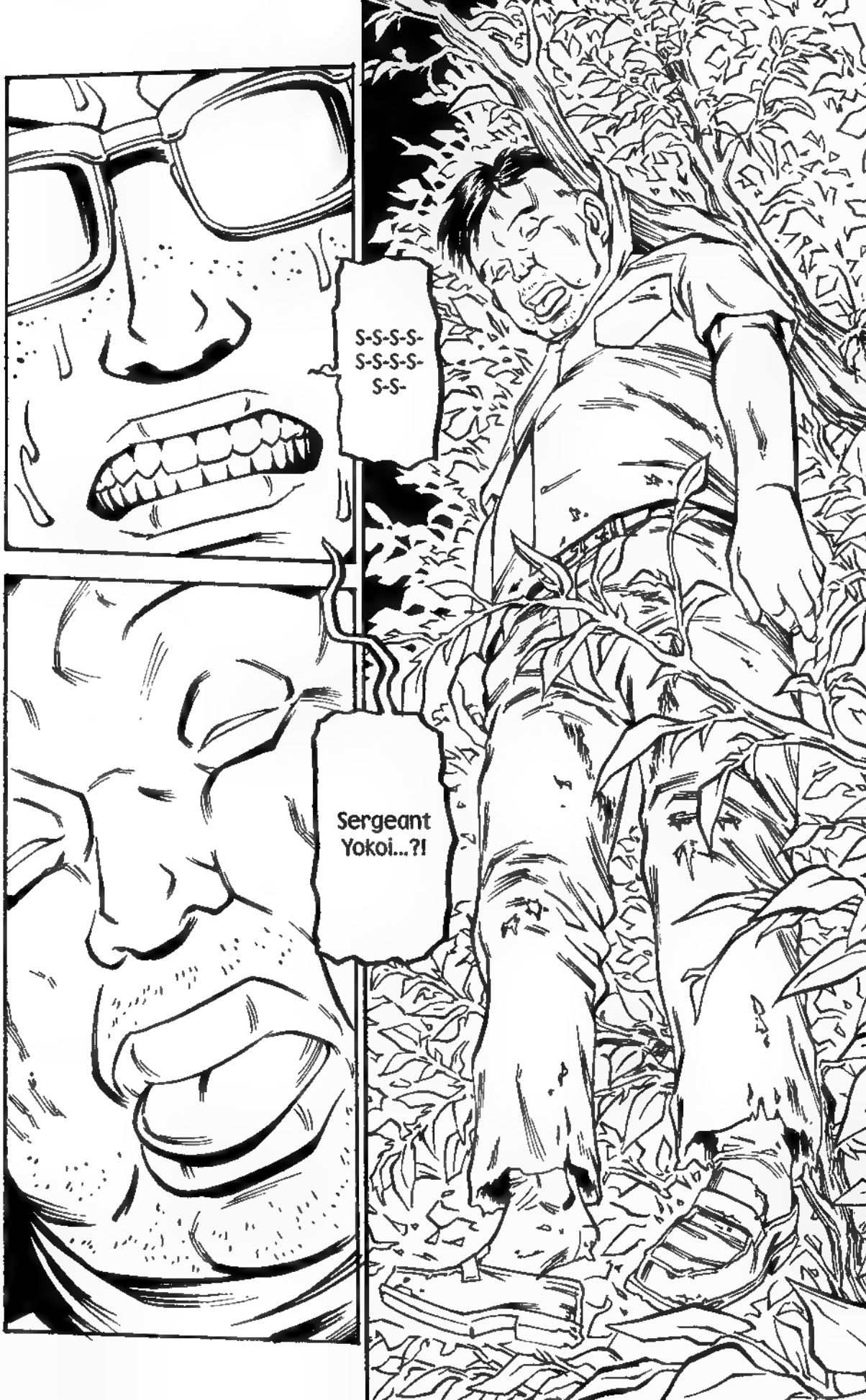
M-m-my body is moving by itself...
It's so noisy you can't stay still, that's all!
...

I-it's true, I really can't focus...
KRRRRR
There's a light flickering in my head...


That device was developed by the Uzbekistan army and found its way onto the net illegally...
H-how rude!
Nnn-nghh!
Hey, Seki!
What's the trick behind that device?
The fact of the matter is this!
Don't say I made it up!
So in short you made everything up, huh?
Mnn-ghhh!
KREEEE
I see. That's too bad.
The only thing is, the manual's written in Uzbek which I can't read, so I have no idea what it's for!
...want to go home today!
I don't...

Getting bigger...
It's rapidly...
Don't call my mom an old bag!
I see! The old bag found out you were spending money from your college fund, huh?
Y-y-y... You...
KREEEEEE
SWAY
SWAY
Ahh... The light...
The... liiight...
THUD
You kids brought us adults here because of that?!
KREEEEEE
Ohhh, gee, he passed out!
O-O- Officer Katakuri ?!
RRREEEEEE

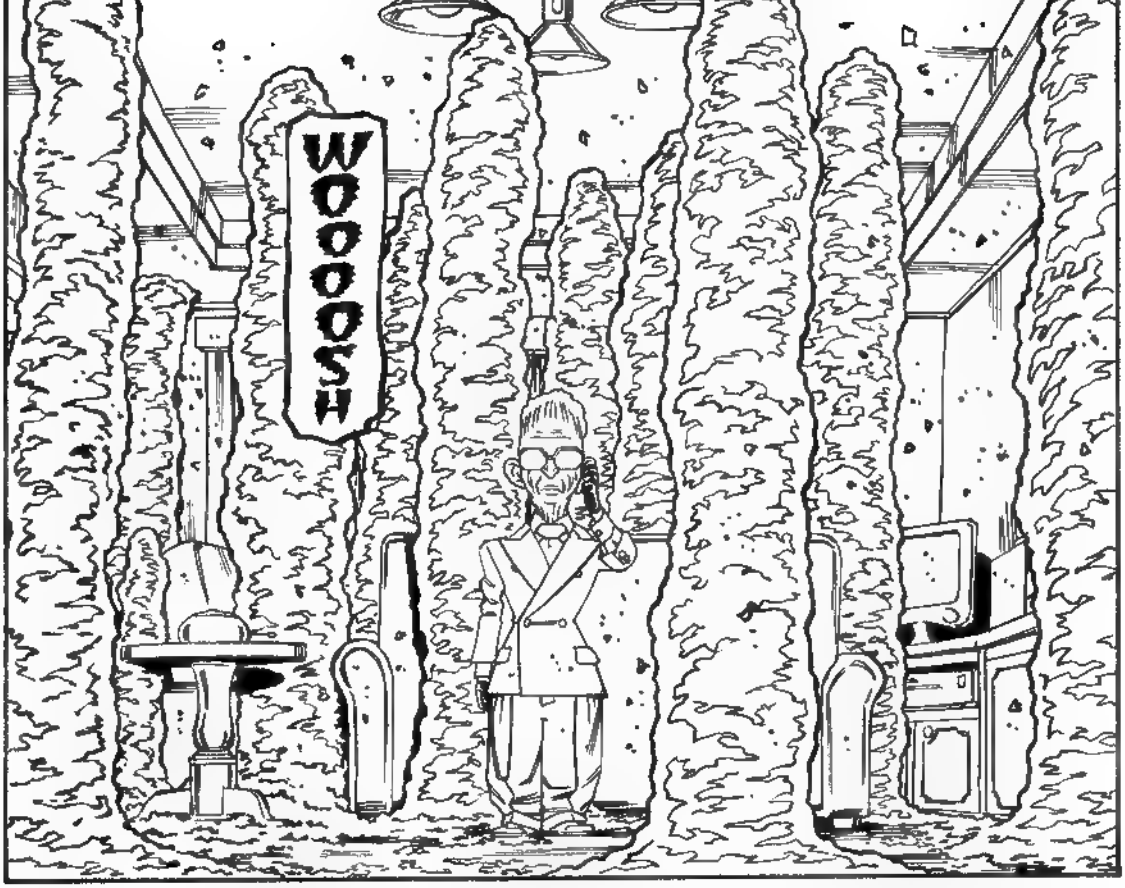

Hm?
Whoahh!
Oh?
...
What's that?
!!!
Whoaaaah!


S-S-S-S-
S-S-S-S-
S-S-
Sergeant
Yokoi...?!

SOIL
Block 2-26 [End]

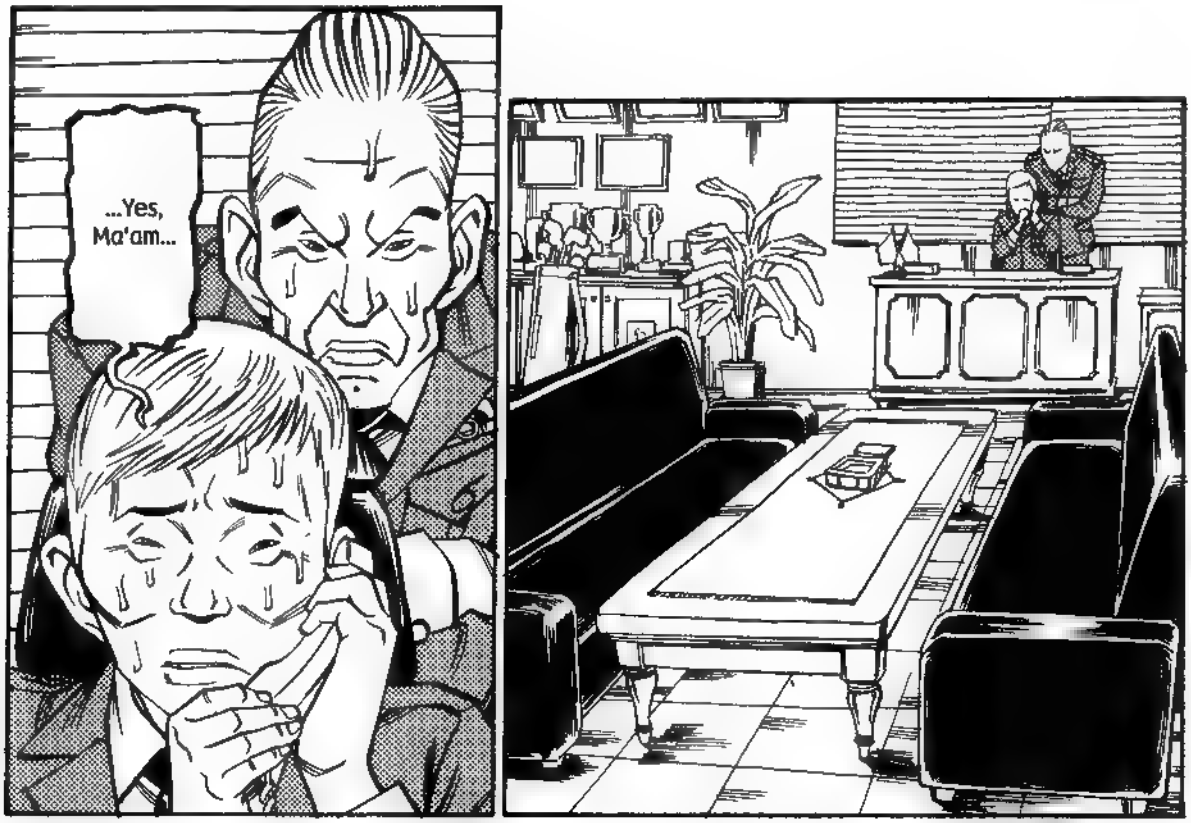
SOIL

Block 2-27 [Sign]


WOOOSH

WOOOSH
BLOCK 2-27

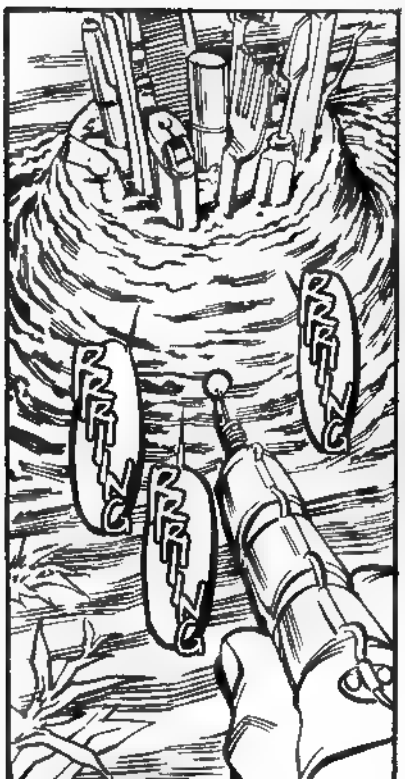
No, it won't do at all, Miss Sakurada.
This just won't do, Sakura.
This is what happens when those in charge let Yokoi play around.
These damn country cops...
WOOOSH
BEEP
BEEP
It ends now.



[Sign]

Why...?!

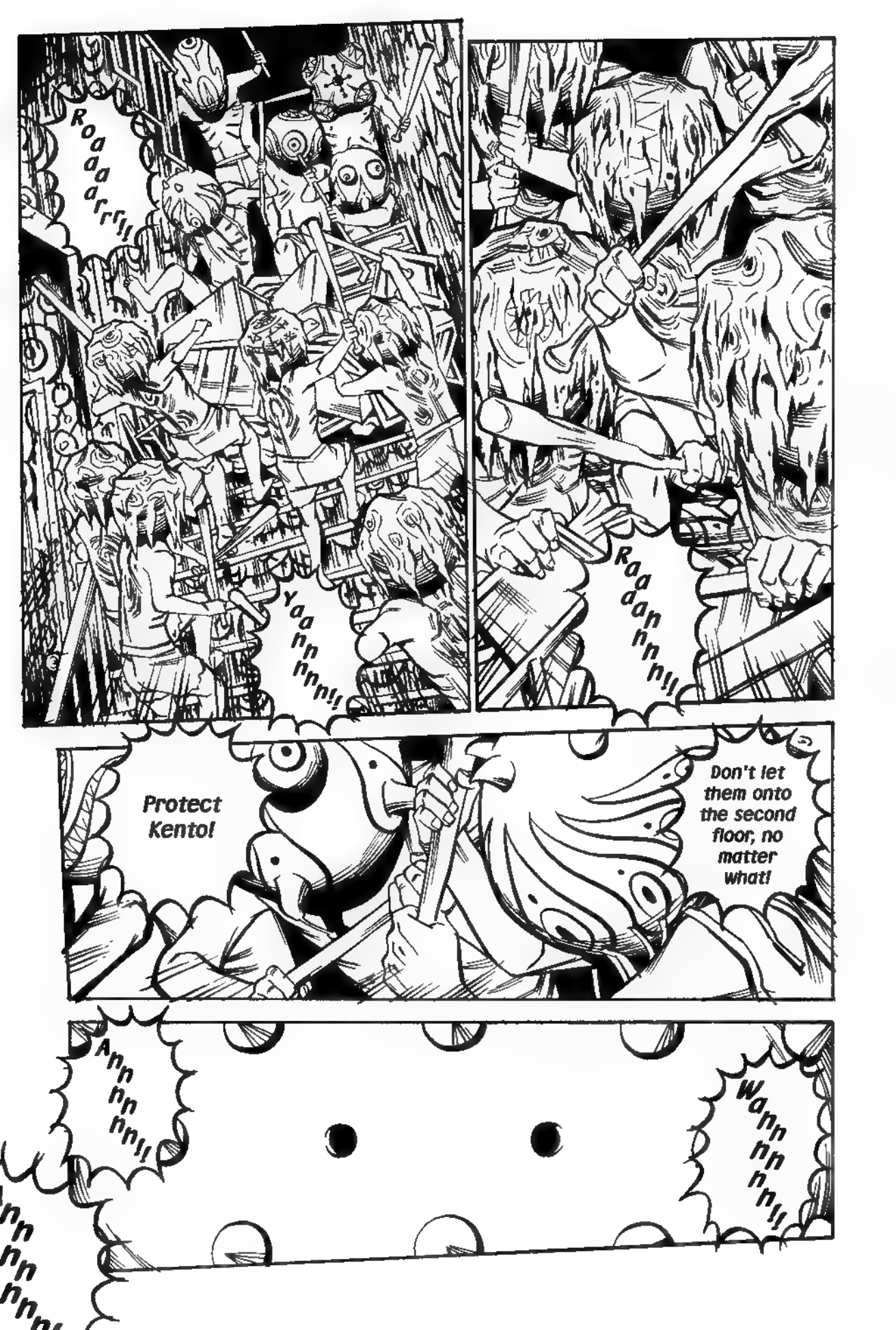
RRING

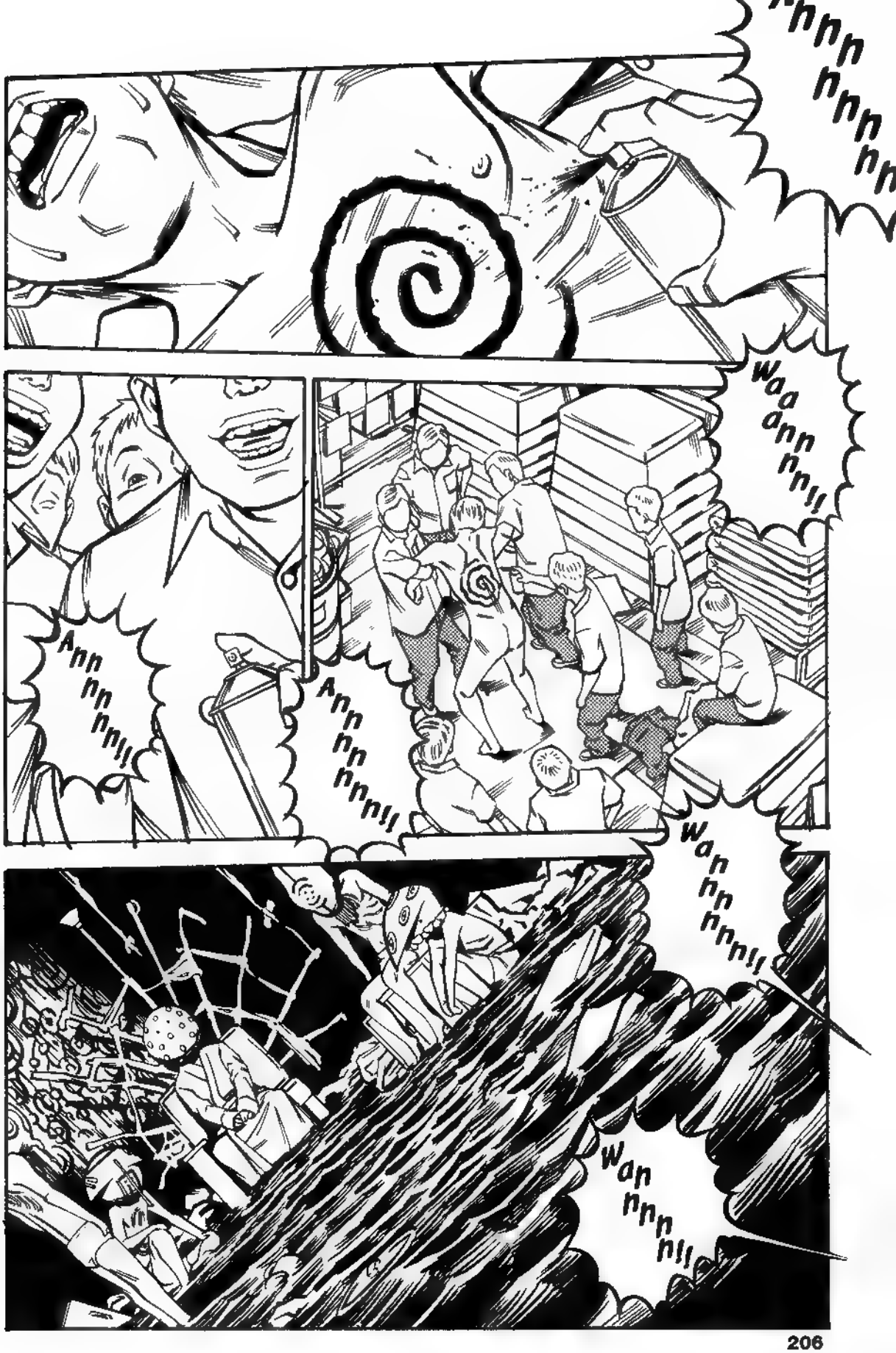

RRING
RRING
RRING

RRING
RRING
RRING
RRING

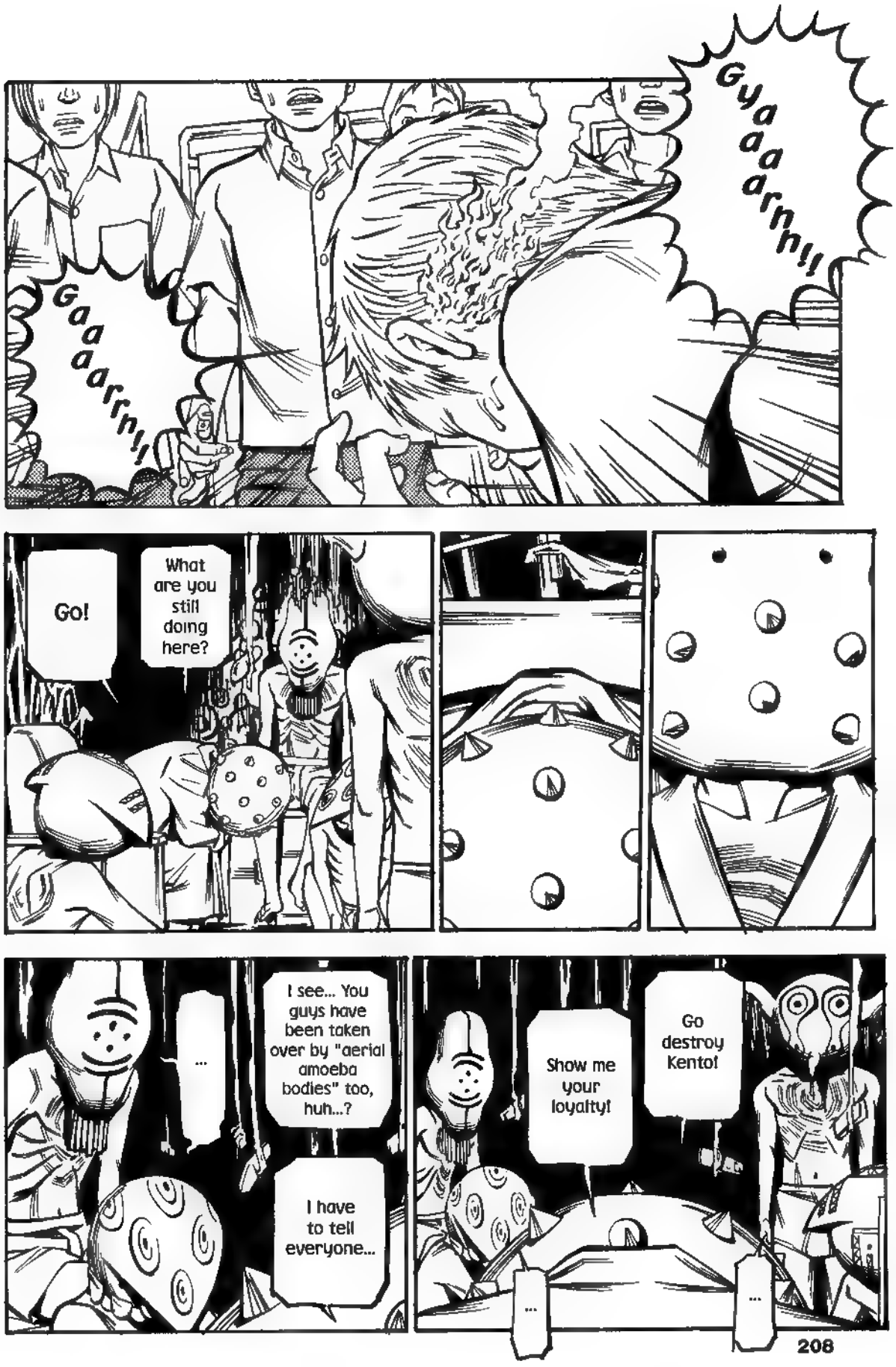
Whoaaa!
GRAB
RUSH
Koff!
Koff!
Kahak!
Kapf!
Kapf!
BEEP
RRING
RRING
RRING
Gak!
Gahak!
Kapf!
Kapf!
DIG
DIG

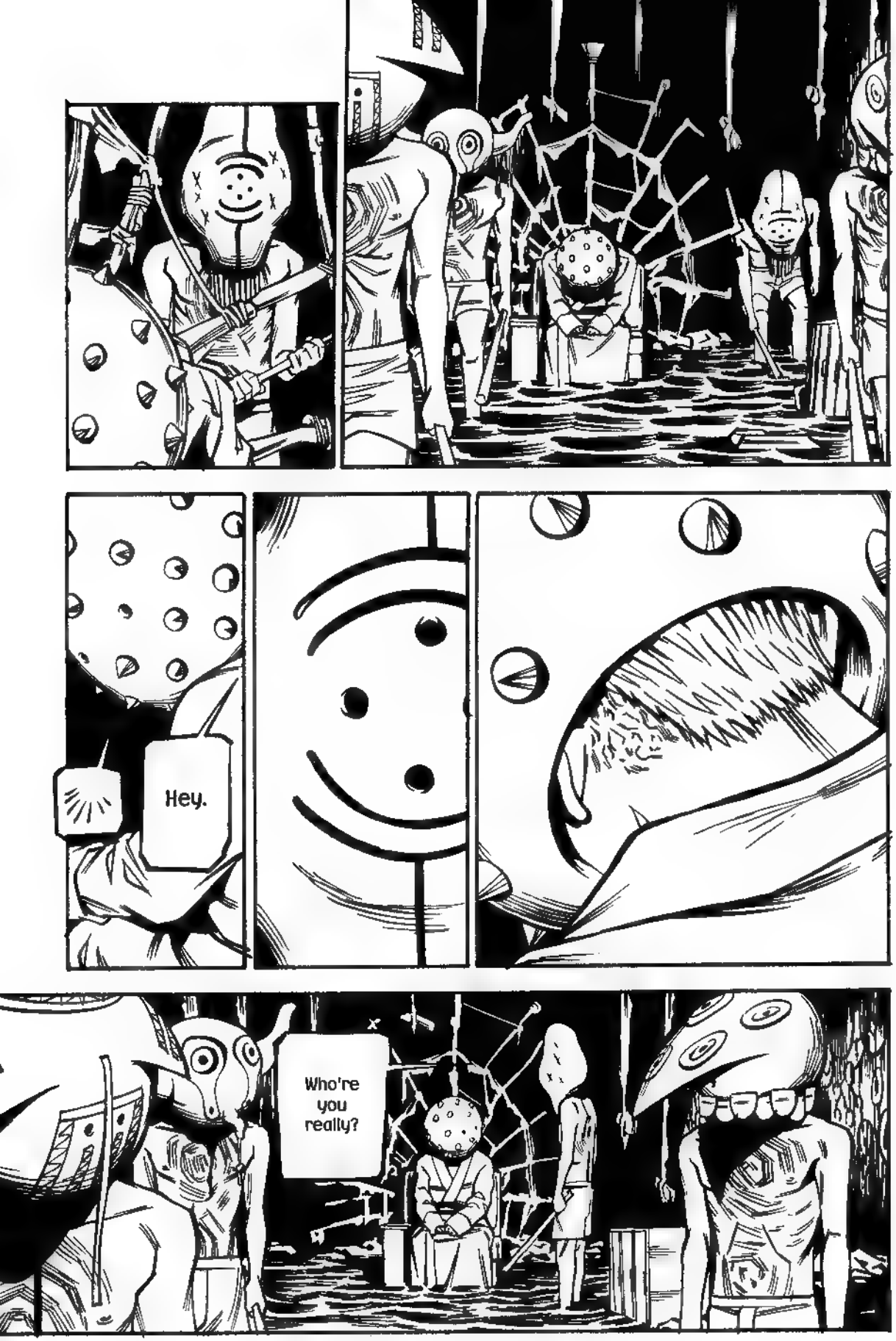
What're you doin' here?
Huh? Onoda?
Uh... Um... I-I-I have no idea...
...
Great!
Y-y-yes, sir!
Huh? What?
I know where Yodogawa is.
Let's go.
...
...


Roaaarrr!!
Yaannnn!!
Raaannn!!
Protect Kento!
Don't let them onto the second floor, no matter what!
Annnnn!!
Wannnnn!!


Ahhh hhhh
Waannnn!!
Annnnn!!
Annnnnn!!
Wannnnnn!!
Wannnnn!!

...is sitting in the owner's chair.
But right now the false leader...
It is fitting that the true leader should inherit it.
This gown was worn by the old owner of this house, the Town Council President...
Am I right?
Annnnnn!!
We have to take care of that...
Wannnnnn!!


Gyaaarrh!!
Gaaarrh!!
Go!
What are you still doing here?
...
I see... You guys have been taken over by "aerial amoeba bodies" too, huh...?
I have to tell everyone...
Show me your loyalty!
Go destroy Kento!
...
...

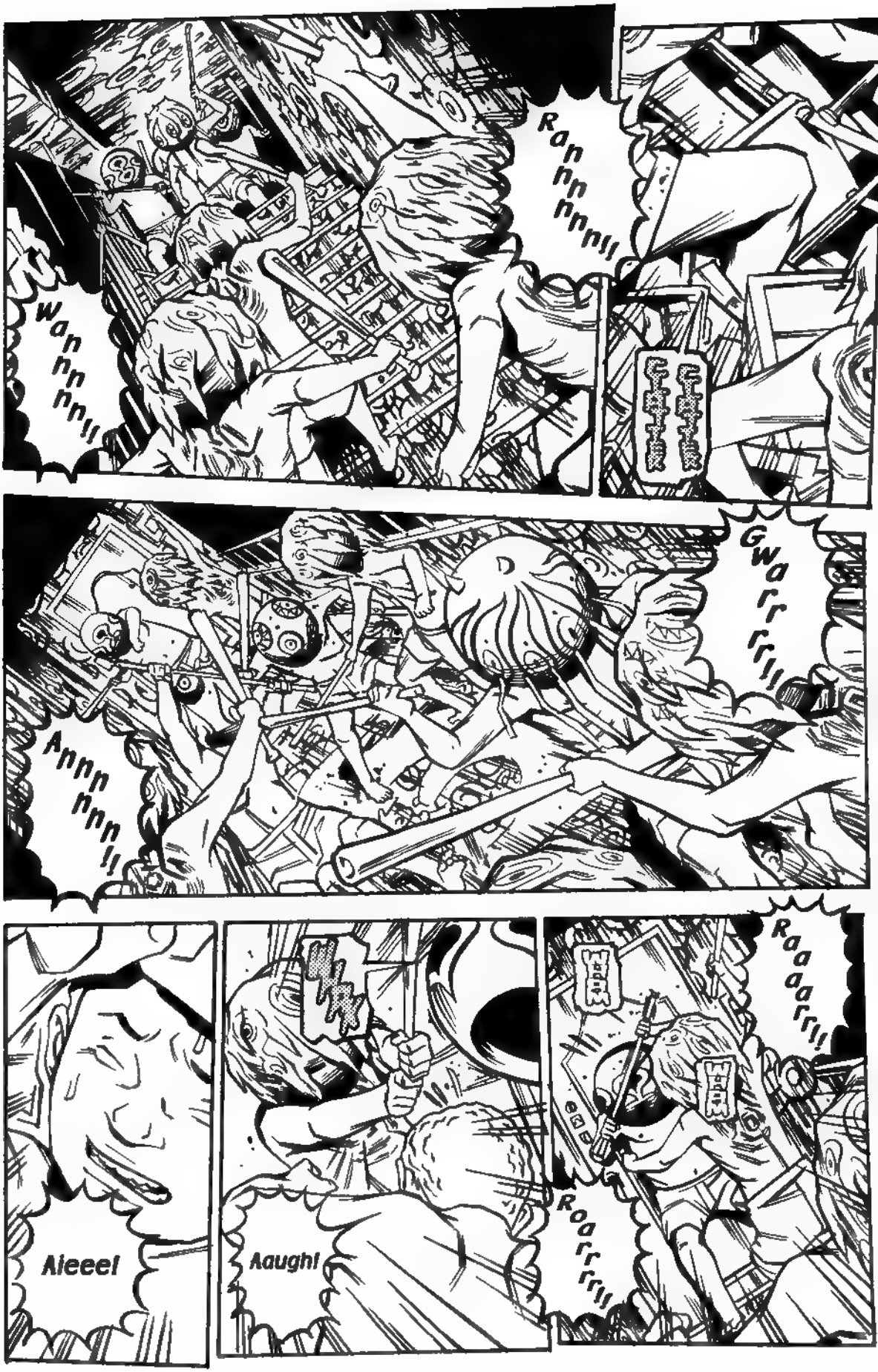

Hey.
Who're you really?

Phew... That was close.
I did similar things during the Akasaka case, almost died several times...
...
If my neck wasn't so fat, I'd be dead by now!
Wh-what in the world was that about...?
Like what the kids of "Soil" are doing.
It's meaning-less.
I just did something crazy.

B-b-but why do you think that's telling you where Officer Yodogawa is?
I opened a crack in the boundary between this and the other side.
You get it too, right?
Uh... No... Can't say I do...
There's no phone number like that out there...
...so there's no way anyone called me.
INCOMING CALL
GB2R32E
20:28
Mooooron, just look at this incoming call number!
Have you been able to find anything?
But what does this code stand for?
GULP
GULP
GULP
I see...
...then that's a "sign."
If something impossible happens...

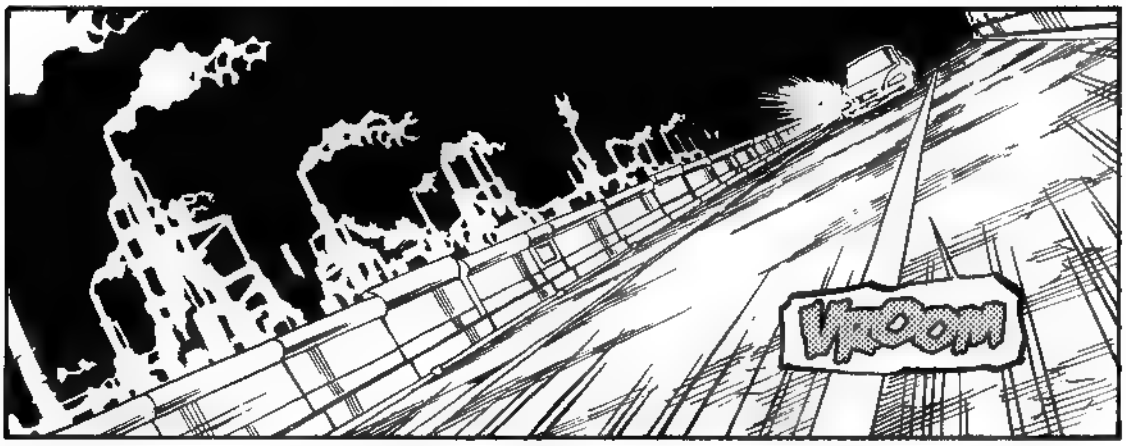
So I thought I'd sort out the lost-and-found...
But... There's no place for me back at the station anymore...
Didn't you quit the team?
What the hell are you doing here?
B...
This one's from the Nishikami-kawa Police Box... A bag and...
Umm... This is from the Kamikawa-bashi Police Box... An umbrella...
Or you'll end up like me.
Then get on with it.
I-I know that!
GULP
GULP
神川本町 K62B4
神川銀座 K62B4
K62B4
K62B43
K62B44
K62B45
山西
Oh, right, the Kamikawa-ginza Police Box.
Shut up, will ya?
Hmm... Where's this from again...?
2007 6/30 K62B41D OUTSIDE THE STATION
And... What's this?

2007
6/30
K62B41D
OUTSIDE THE STATION
A bra...
K63F4
S-S-S-S-
...S-
Sergeant Yoko!!


Rannnnnn!!
Wannnnn!!
Gworrrr!!
Annnnn!!
Aleeee!
Aaugh!
Roaaarr!!
Roarrrr!!

...Yasu?
...
Yammie ...?
...are the kids I know from primary school.
The only people who call me "Yammie" ...
Are you Yasu...?
?!

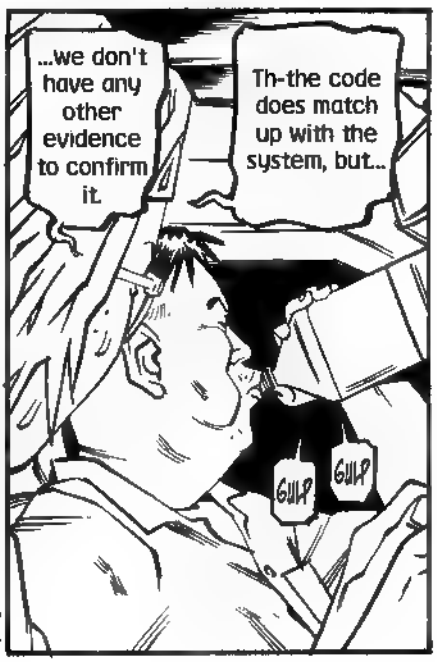
You guys take them off, too!
Remember who you are!
...


VROOM

The one used to input data in the police service...
I see, so it was a police box code.
Why are you tagging along?

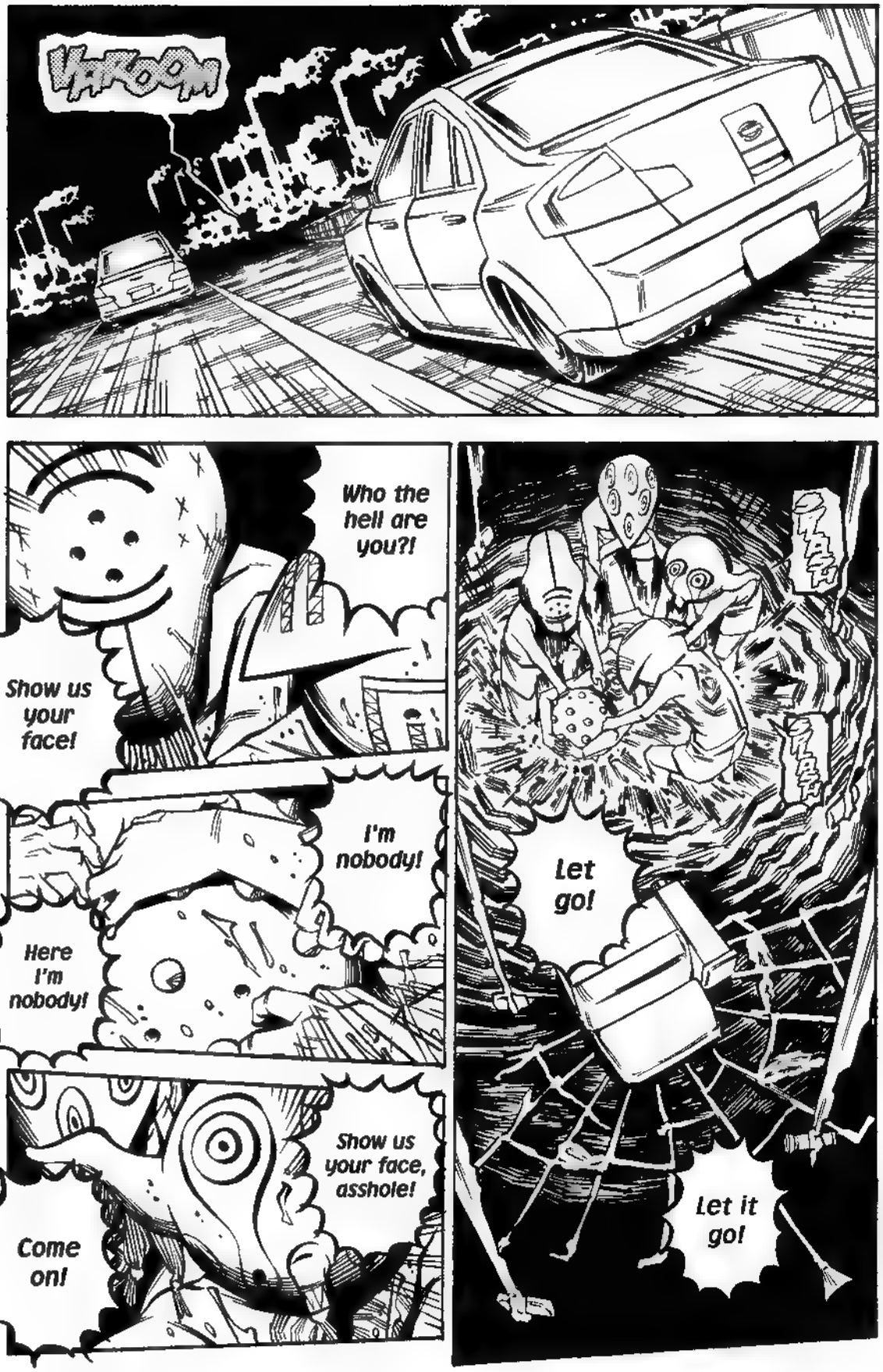
A-are we really going...?
...

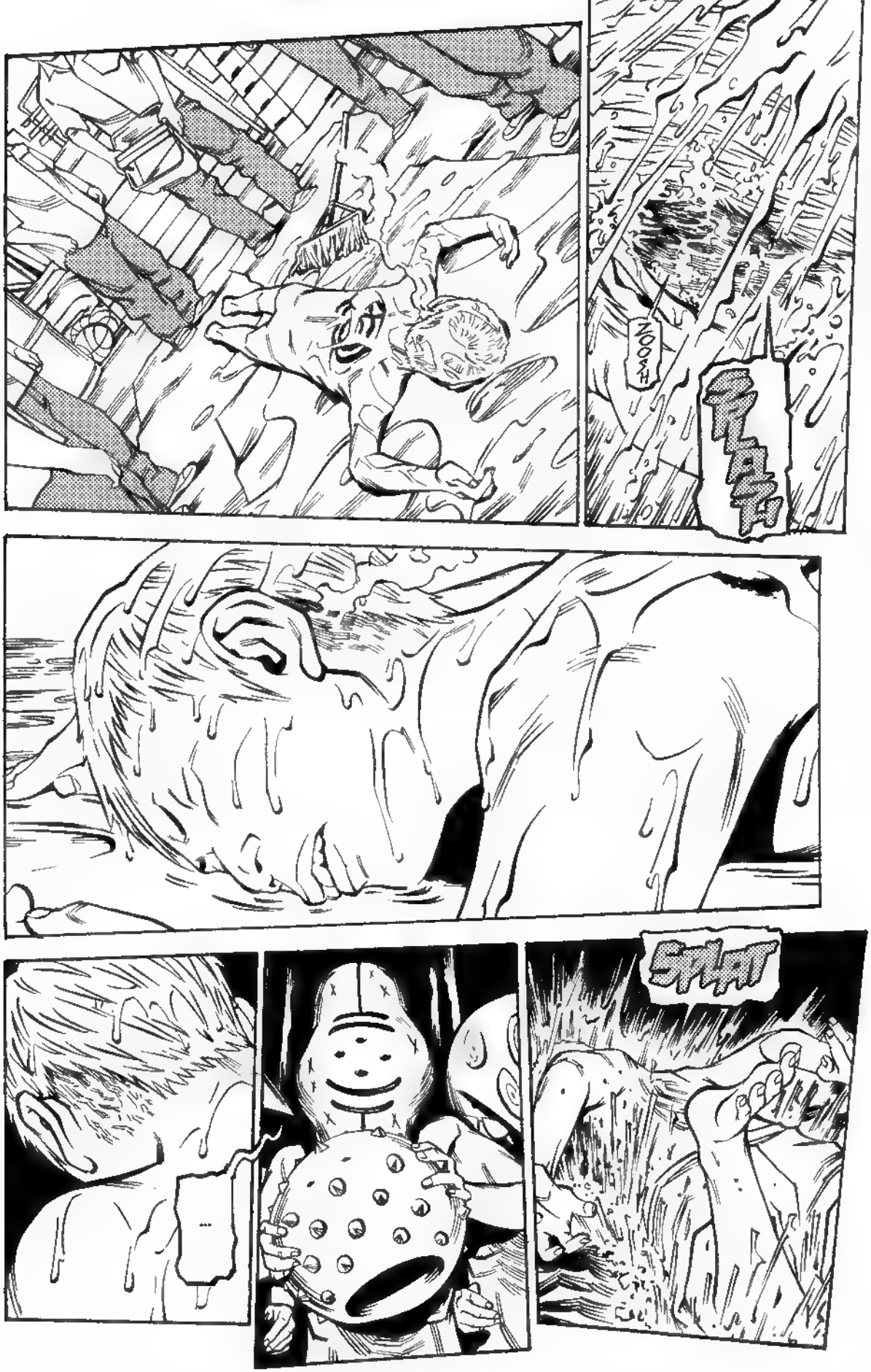
That's gotta be the place.
Never mind that, just drive.


...we don't have any other evidence to confirm it.
Th-the code does match up with the system, but...
GULP
GULP

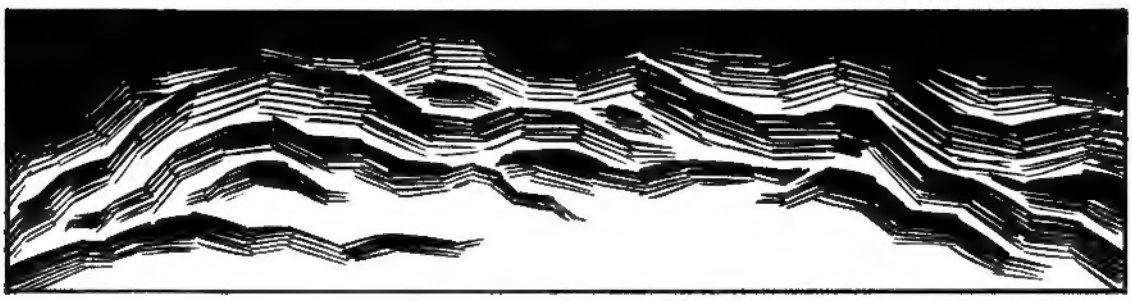
...w-with only *that* as a clue?
A-are we seriously heading all the way to a substation in the Gunma mountains...

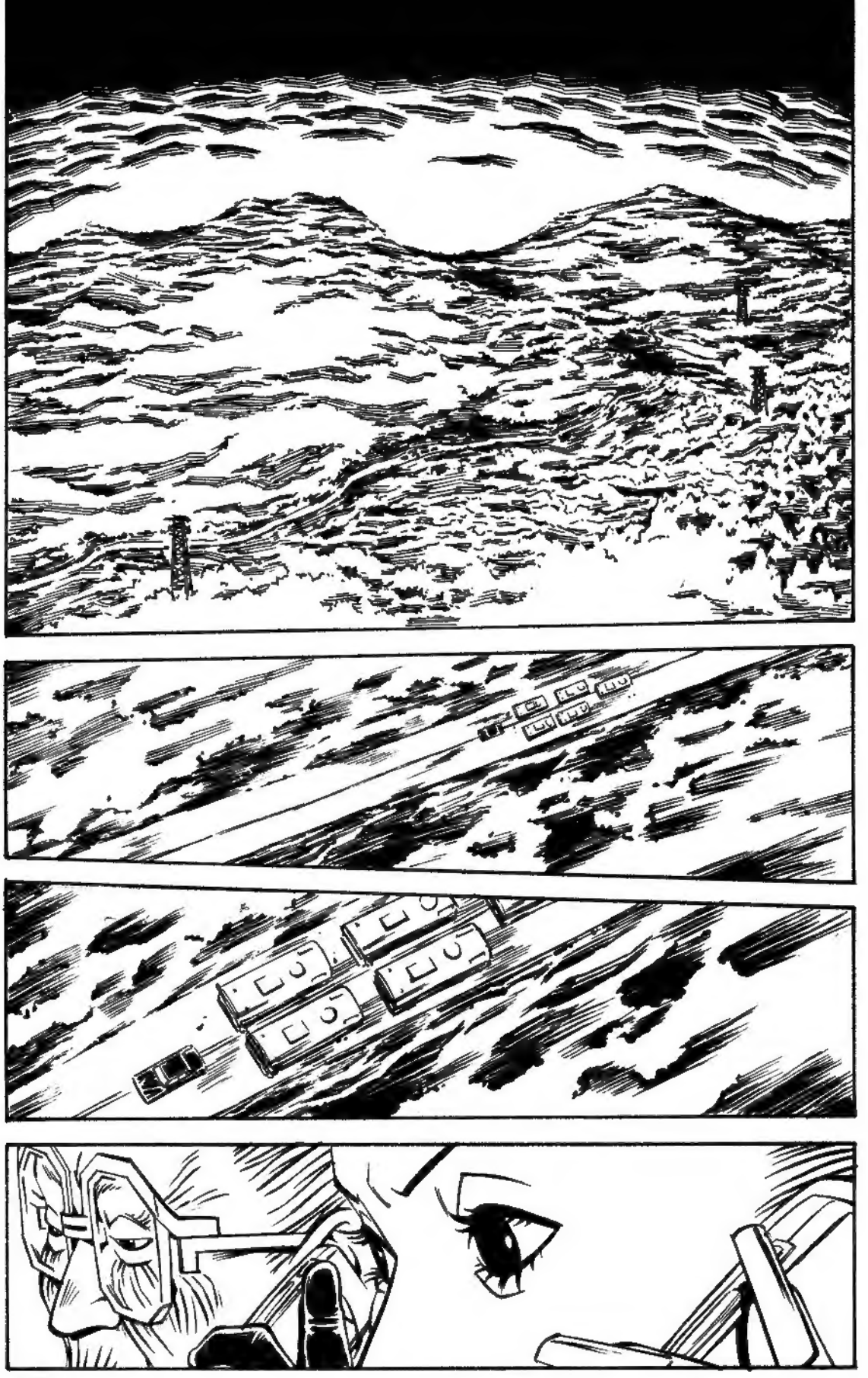
FOOM
That "sign" was sent directly to me.
Which means the "situation" we're in holds the answers.
Quit staring at me like that!
it also means we were relegated to the lost-and-found room for a reason.
...
GULP
GULP
Probably. Not yet.
I'm not crazy.

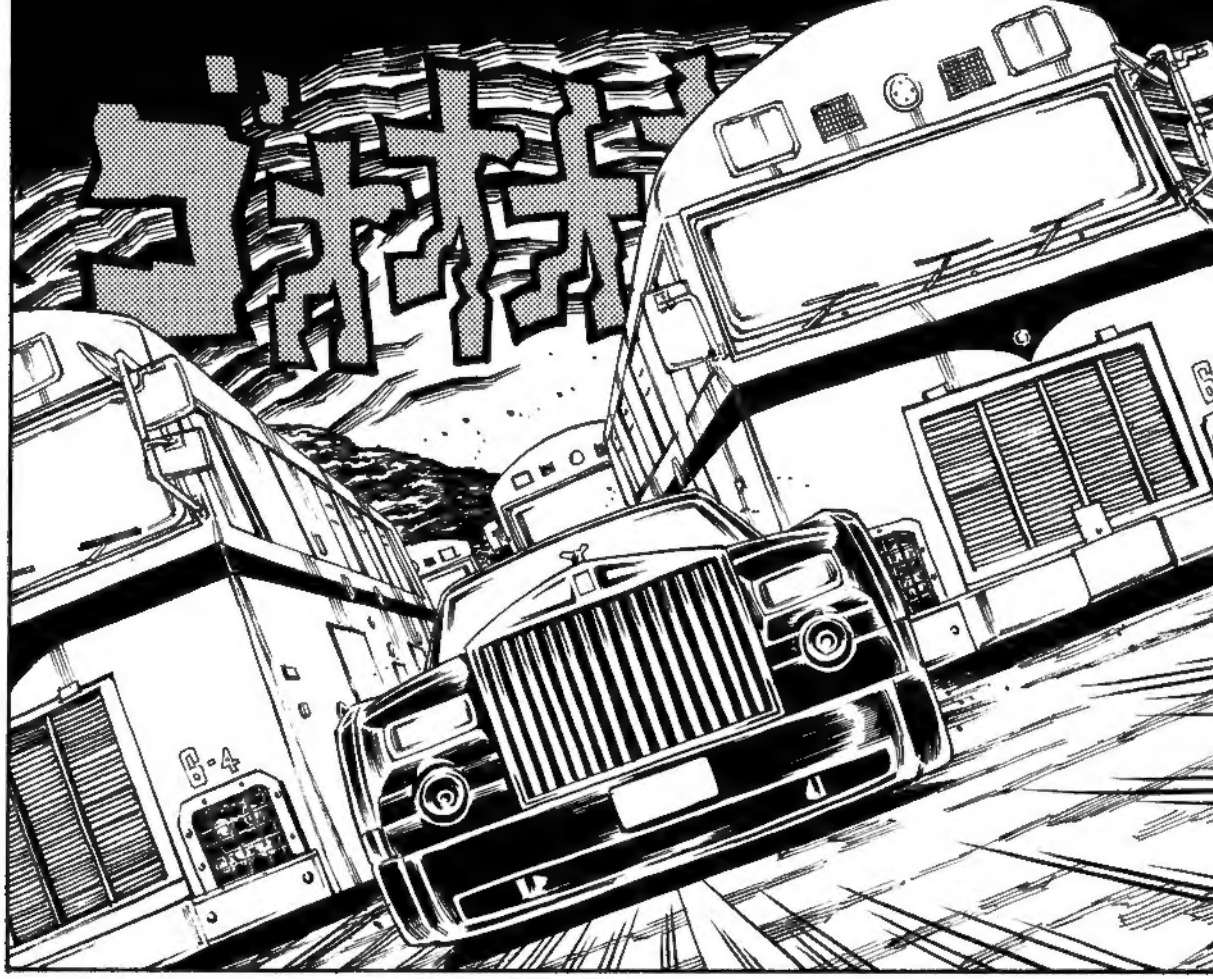

VAROOM
Who the hell are you?!
Show us your face!
I'm nobody!
Here I'm nobody!
Show us your face, asshole!
Come on!
TAP
TAP
Let go!
Let it go!


WOOSH
SPLAT

You're... Tapeworm ...?
...
Sanada...?






ドドド
6-4

METROPOLITAN RIOT POLICE
ドドド

SOIL［ソイル］6 END

To be continued in the next volume.

Yokoi and his team continue their irrational investigation. In the midst of madness, the children regain their sanity. Through that critical event, they can finally find a clue to solving the "mystery" of the swirling, chaotic world ... or so they thought.

As we enter volume 7, this dark, twisting, punk story gets even more exciting as it tumbles down a never-before-seen road.